

Chain chain chain.
Stadtlanders Pharmacy takes over Castro
Village Pharmacies in Los Angeles and SF.

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Robert Bray leaves NGLTF
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Don't cry for her.
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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 52 • 26 December 1996

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years

A year to remember

by Dennis Conkin



Down Memory Lane 1996 in pictures (clockwise from upper left): Pat Christen gets an unexpected shower in October; Transsexual Menace pickets the *Chron* that same month; Wigstock West is a qualified success at Fort Mason in May; Marriage Gay and Lesbian Style in March; and longtime B.A.R. columnist Michael Botkin passes in August.

Sex club restrictions lifted

by Liz Highleyman

The Power Exchange Main Station at 74 Otis Street was allowed to expand its operations on Friday, December 20, enabling the club to resume occupancy of two floors that had been closed for fire code violations. As an interim measure, the club will be allowed to accommodate 209 patrons on three floors, up from the limit of 49 imposed by Judge William Cahill on November 15 and continued on December 5.

A re-inspection of the club was conducted Friday by a large team of city officials, led by Deputy Director of Building Inspection William Wong and Ernest Lee of the Bureau of Fire Protection. Fire Captain Edward De Cossio — who initiated the original inspection of the club — has been removed from the case and was not present. The inspectors noted a few remaining minor safety concerns (e.g., furniture to be moved, latches to be installed on fire doors) that must be

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Some years are best forgotten. Some years are unforgettable. When future scholars write the history of the lesbian and gay movement, 1996 will be a year that bears more scrutiny, perhaps, than any since 1969, when the Stonewall riots erupted.

In the last 12 months, the Supreme Court put a stop to right-wing extremists' ballot box bigotry, ruling against Colorado's Amendment 2 and Cincinnati's Issue 3; a Hawaii judge thrust the issue of same-sex marriage into the spotlight, where the American people will be able to debate its pros and cons and perhaps determine that nothing about gay couples in wedlock

January

A long-simmering controversy spilled onto the front page of the *Bay Area Reporter* from the letter pages January 4, when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to hold up a \$65,000 homeless services housing contract to the Salvation Army because of a virulently anti-gay letter the B.A.R. received from a Salvation Army official. The letter reiterated the Salvation Army's position that homosexuals are mentally sick and "needed help and understanding," but stressed that like any other "deviant behavior" homosexual behavior is capable of control — and that gays who weren't able to "develop mature heterosexual relationships"

unary manslaughter to avoid facing a first degree murder trial. Robbins, 67, killed 71-year-old Barbara "Bobby" Wilson in a dispute over 69-year-old Maurine Zwemke, who was about to leave Robbins for Wilson. Robbins later received an 11-year state prison sentence without the possibility of parole.

A \$10,000 scholarship for an HIV-positive law student at New College of San Francisco was announced by Mobilization Against AIDS and New College of California.

A retired and subsequently out of the closet Episcopal Bishop announced that he

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When future scholars write the history of the lesbian and gay movement, 1996 will stand out as much as 1969.

threatens anyone else's way of life; the United States Senate came within one vote of passing a national bill to outlaw discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace; and scientists finally came up with a way to cut the death rate from AIDS.

But those are the national headlines, which only tell part of the story. The last 52 issues of the *Bay Area Reporter* also chronicle the movement — forward and back; large steps and small — here in the San Francisco area. As is often the case during inventory time, some things are cause for celebration and others are cause for rage. But all in all, it shows that 1996 was definitely a year to remember.

could be helped through medication, psychiatry, religious counseling, and conversion to Christianity. A proposal to defund the group by Supervisor Tom Ammiano was postponed until January 15.

Also making the front page of the first B.A.R. of 1996 was a brief announcement that AIDS activist and PWA **Jeff Getty** was to be released from San Francisco General Hospital after being the first human to receive a transplant of baboon marrow, which researchers thought might strengthen his HIV-ravaged immune system.

The same issue of the paper also reported that retired Marin County art teacher **Phyllis Robbins** had pleaded guilty to vol-

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Irwin's silver hammer

Irwin Keller displays the Hammer of Justice at ALRP's annual reception Dec. 11 at the California Historical Society. (The hammer is given with a plaque to all those who donate \$500 or more to the organization.) ALRP 1996 Award recipients were Tom Burns, Attorney of the Year; Alice Philipson, Clint Hockenberry Award; Emrys Lloyd-Roberts, Volunteer of the Year; and Judy Greenspan, Community Service Award.



A Fund of Our Own comes through Over \$20K awarded to 12 Bay Area lesbian projects

by Cynthia Laird

The Horizons Foundation, the nation's oldest community-based lesbian and gay grantmaking foundation, has announced \$20,850 in grants from Bay Area Career Women's (BACW) A Fund of Our Own to 12 projects serving lesbians in the Bay Area.

"A Fund of Our Own is a donor-advised fund administered by the Horizons Foundation," said Denise Wells, board president. "These grants are made possible by the hard work and fundraising efforts from the entire gay and lesbian community."

A large portion of the fund is raised through the annual Lesbians of Achievement, Vision, and Action (LAVA) dinner held in the spring. Wells said, adding that since its inception in 1989, A Fund of Our Own has provided more than \$174,000 to lesbian programs.

"These projects represent a tremendous diversity of issues and populations needing attention in the lesbian community," said Betty Sullivan, chair of A Fund of Our Own. "The overwhelming response to the requests for proposals indicates the critical need for increased funding of lesbian programs."

Sullivan added that the partnership between BACW and the Horizons Foundation is one way to address this need.

Grants were made to the following:

- Cultural Research and Communication, Inc. — For completion costs for Vivian Kleiman's video *Immediate Family*, which traces the defeats and triumphs of a middle-aged postal clerk, Virginia, who visits her comatose female lover of 21 years in the hospital. The video explores the legal barriers that deny Virginia status as a member of the "immediate family."

- Legal Intervention and Advocacy for Battered Lesbian Empowerment (LIABLE) — To provide workshops for poor and working-class lesbians living with and/or seeking to escape domestic violence. LIABLE is a program of the LIFE project in San Francisco that provides referrals, education, advocacy, and direct legal services on family law issues.

- Lesbians in Pictures Television (LIP TV) — To help with studio costs for this sister affiliate of



Horizons Foundation's
 Denise Wells.

DYKE TV, for producing up to 16 short segments for national broadcast and up to 16 half-hour shows for local broadcast in 1997. Funds will be used for tape stock, studio, and equipment rentals, and on-line editing. LIP TV/DYKE TV airs on cable in San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley.

- Lesbian Visual Artists (LVA) — For production of artists' salons to initiate discussion on topics including censorship; class and race in art; lesbian art = political art?; arts activism; and arts funding. LVA is devoted to building a network of lesbian visual artists and promoting the inclusion of lesbian visual artists in all media, in museums and galleries, and including lesbian artists in dialogue on issues in contemporary art.

- Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services — For Lyon-Martin's HIV-positive lesbian advocacy project to sponsor seven to 12 lesbians and bisexual women to attend relevant Bay Area talks or conferences as attendees and participants, community activists, educators, and speakers. This project counteracts isolation and provides HIV-positive lesbian and bisexual women with opportunities for education and activism.

- LYRIC — For the 1997 Health Fair for young lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women. The fair provides women the opportunity to share experiences, participate in health-related workshops and discussions, and get answers to questions they are not comfortable asking their own doctors.

- New Leaf — For the addition of two substance abuse therapy groups specifically for lesbians and bisexual women, to be staffed by a lesbian therapist. This outpa-

tient agency (formerly Operation Concern/18th Street Services) provides accessible and affordable mental health; substance abuse, recovery, HIV prevention, outreach to elders, and social services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities of San Francisco.

- Purple Moon Dance Project — To develop community programming and offer workshops and classes, especially for lesbian youth. Purple Moon is a multi-racial lesbian contemporary dance company whose work brings the experiences of lesbians and women of color more visibly into the spectrum of American dance.

- Raised Butch — For marketing costs for a three-weekend run at Theatre Rhinoceros. This one-person play chronicles the life of Nicky, a fictional butch lesbian in her late 20s, as she struggles to break free from destructive family behavior patterns while trying to answer the question, "What are you, a boy or a girl?"

- San Francisco Women's Center/Women's Building — For the 1997 Audre Lorde "Advanced Class" creative writing workshop for young lesbians of color. Participants will make presentations at an event to launch Women's History Month at the Women's Building in March.

- Spectrum — To support Women Here In Marin (WHIM) senior program. WHIM addresses the concerns of lesbians 55 years and over by providing programs, services, and activities that empower senior women of all cultures to value and respect themselves and support each other.

- Women Vision — For Bay Area production costs for the first film about children of lesbian parents, part of a longitudinal study begun in 1986 of lesbians who have children through donor insemination. Several films will be produced as periodic interviews are conducted with children and their families ending in the year 2020. ▼

For more information on A Fund of Our Own, call BACW at (415) 495-5393. To obtain an application for funding, contact the Horizons Foundation at (415) 398-2333 or write them at 870 Market Street, Suite 1155, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Macy's Passport funds are great holiday gifts for AIDS groups

by Dennis Conkin

Nine Bay Area service agencies are among 33 HIV/AIDS groups in a five-state region to receive funds from Macy's West's new Passport Fund, a grants program established in cooperation with Federated Department Stores, Inc., Macy's corporate owner.

The Bay Area grants are for general organizational support and several special projects, according to Macy's spokesperson Merle Goldstone.

Continuum HIV Day Services will receive \$5,600, Most Holy Redeemer will receive \$5,000, Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center HIV/AIDS Community Services will receive \$7,500, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center will receive \$5,600, and The Family Link will receive \$7,500. The AIDS Legal Referral Panel will receive \$5,600, as will Kairos Support for AIDS Care Caregivers.

Petaluma's Camp Sunburst, which provides a residential summer camp for children with HIV and AIDS, will receive \$7,000; and the Asian AIDS Health Services Program in Oakland will receive \$7,500, Goldstone said in a press statement.

The new grants come from funds raised by Macy's annual "Passport" fall fashion shows in the Bay Area and Los Angeles.

According to Continuum official Brenda Larabee, the funds are "incredibly important" to Continuum's ability to service clients who use the Adult Day Health Center services.

"It's very important to Continuum because it's ongoing operational support," Larabee said. "It makes a big difference."

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group executive director Lou Coloia told the Bay Area Re-



Most Holy Redeemer's Tom Spratt with one of the 126 "Tommy Bears" donated by Macy's West to the church's AIDS Support Group.

porter that the Macy's funds "really helped" the agency serve clients.

"It's one of the few sources of unrestricted funds for agencies who do not provide prevention or education. For us it's a real God-send," Coloia said.

The successful fundraiser has contributed more than \$4.1 million in funds to AIDS service organizations since 1988. Last year's event, hosted by Elizabeth Taylor and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, raised \$1.5 million.

In addition to support of seven major Bay Area and LA beneficiaries, Macy's set aside a portion of the '96 proceeds to initiate grants to HIV/AIDS service groups throughout the Macy's West chain.

Principal beneficiaries of the annual event are the American Foundation for AIDS Research, which received \$163,369; the Elizabeth Taylor Foundation, which received \$205,371; the Magic Johnson Foundation, which received \$195,399; and LA's Project Angel Food, which received

\$105,371.

San Francisco's Project Open Hand received \$157,997, as did the UCLA Center for HIV and Digestive Disease. UCSF/Macy's Center for Creative Therapies also received \$157,997. Forty-eight additional Bay Area and Los Angeles HIV/AIDS agencies were beneficiaries of Macy's Passport-In-Store events. ▼

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Correction

Contact information in our story "Chrysler Dodge" (December 12) was incorrect. The e-mail address for The Campaign for Equal Rights at Chrysler is MichRook@aol.com and the website is at <http://members.aol.com/chryscamp/history.htm>. We apologize for the errors.

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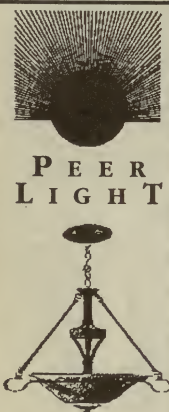
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Help is on the way for Duboce Park equipment replacement

by Cynthia Laird

Duboce Park playground equipment could be replaced as early as next year if several city departments retain the project's "priority one" designation and the Board of Supervisors approves \$50,000 in recommended funding in next year's budget, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

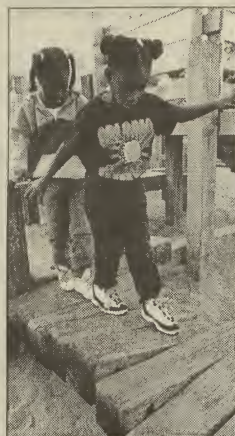
The park, in the heart of the Duboce Triangle area of the city, is frequently used by gay and lesbian families that live in the neighborhood, plus others who come to the park from other parts of the city because they find it a safe place to be with their children.

"It's a little oasis there," Supervisor Susan Leal told the B.A.R., adding that city Recreation and Park Department workers were forced to remove several pieces of playground equipment that had become so worn down they were unsafe.

According to Gaeta Bell, a lesbian mother who was appointed to the committee by Leal, the city's Open Space Advisory Committee designated the project for priority one funding at its Tuesday, December 10 meeting, primarily because of work done by some park neighbors.

One of the many park users, Marino Pesce, a single father of a three-year-old, got the ball rolling on replacing the equipment. He even secured an oral commitment from Davies Medical Center, located across the street from Duboce Park, to financially help with the costs.

"There's one slide left, three swings, and a toddler area," Pesce, who said he's never gotten involved in city government before, told the B.A.R. When he and his son went to the park one day last August and found crews dismem-



Jennice, 7, and Porsha, 6 (front), are Duboce Park regulars.

bering the equipment, Pesce started inquiring about getting the equipment replaced. He was told to go to the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Bell said that initially, the equipment replacement was given a lower priority by Recreation and Park staff members. Had that lower priority prevailed, the equipment wouldn't be included in funding requests for next year.

Preliminary status

Bell cautioned that the committee's 13-0 vote earlier this month to give the project a priority one designation and a \$50,000 funding recommendation is very preliminary, because there are still several bureaucratic hoops to go through. The Open Space Advisory Committee's final recommendation is put into a report by the director of Recreation and Park. That report is then sent to a joint meeting of the Recreation and

Park Commission and the Planning Commission. Their recommendation is then forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

"I'm real encouraged by the shift," Bell told the B.A.R., referring to the priority change.

Leal, who said the park is "very much used by a cross-section of the community," became concerned when she learned of the initial lower priority.

"Here we have a situation where we have a big need and people willing to help," Leal said. "I'm doing what I believe I should do, advocating for needs that are really apparent."

Pesce's work getting Davies Medical Center involved was part of the reason for the priority change. Bell said that under the Recreation and Park Department's new Seed program, staff are more encouraged to give a project a higher priority if funds are secured from other groups or organizations.

Melissa Ridlon, director of community relations at Davies, confirmed the medical center will make a financial contribution, through she doesn't have a dollar amount.

"We did it because we felt it might be an appropriate way to participate in the community," Ridlon told the B.A.R. "It seemed like a good neighbor thing to do. We said we would help in a small way. We'd like to see a lot of people participate."

There has not been any formal discussion by Davies, Ridlon added, but there will be a contribution.

Pesce just hopes the playground equipment will be replaced as soon as possible.

"It's really sad, there are all these kids there with active imaginations," he said, adding there's very little equipment left for them to play on. ▼

Construction to start on AIDS housing in East Bay

by Cynthia Laird

The East Bay's Resources for Community Development (RCD) broke ground in Hayward at the site of the Concord House Thursday, December 19. When completed next year, housing will become available for eight low income people living with AIDS.

Concord House, expected to be completed in October 1997, will help meet the great need for housing in southern Alameda County for people living with AIDS. Currently, there is no permanent AIDS housing in this part of the county, RCD staff members said.

RCD has demolished six dilapidated cottages that were on the site, to make space for the two four-bedroom homes, each fully accessible with private bedroom/bathroom suites and shared living, dining, and kitchen space, to be constructed. Each individual unit will also have a small refrigerator.

The two buildings will enclose a private south-facing courtyard.

Planter beds will be raised above ground so that gardening and maintenance can be accomplished by residents in or out of wheelchairs.

Concord House will also provide shared community space, an on-site supportive services and management office, and a fully-equipped laundry room. The project is designed to complement the single family homes in the Cherryland neighborhood of Hayward.

The cost for the Concord House project is \$1.1 million, said RCD staff member Alison Kirk. The funding comes from several sources, Kirk explained, including Alameda County HOME and HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) programs, as well as HUD's Supportive Housing Program.

Mark Reilly, RCD project manager for Concord House, said the nonprofit housing development corporation has been working on the Concord House project for about three years. Part of that lengthy process was working out a compromise with residents who had expressed concerns about

having another group home in their neighborhood. Reilly said there are other group homes in the area where Concord House was first proposed.

Neighborhood compromise

"The purchase of this site was a compromise with the neighbors," Reilly told the B.A.R. of the current Concord Avenue location. "We found a site with vacant group homes already on it. Our original plan was to renovate them, but it was determined to be more cost-effective to construct new [units]."

The old buildings were torn down, and actual construction of Concord House is scheduled to start January 6, Reilly said, adding the work will take about ten months to complete.

Alameda County Supervisor Mary King, who represents the area, was one of the speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony.

"First of all, I think it's important throughout the county to provide humane, safe housing for people with AIDS," King told the B.A.R. "This will be the first in this

COMMUNITY NEWS

Latest chain in the Castro: Stadtlanders

by Dennis Conkin

Stadtlanders Pharmacy has signed an agreement to buy Castro Village Pharmacies in Los Angeles and San Francisco, including the flagship store at 4122 18th Street in the Castro, and some people aren't happy about it.

Stadtlanders, primarily a national mail order pharmacy specializing in medications for transplant recipients and people with AIDS and cancer-related chronic healthcare conditions, opened its first retail site in New York City in 1994. Also that year it gained international publicity by sponsoring the mile-long rainbow flag

carried during the Stonewall riot 25th anniversary parade.

"We believe in taking a very client- and community-focused approach to patient care," Stadtlanders Pharmacy President Tom Halstead said in a press statement. "Having a physical presence in key markets is an important way for Stadtlanders to become even more closely involved in the communities we serve."

However, some AIDS activists are dismayed by the sale of Castro Village. "Oh no," said ACT UP/Golden Gate member Rob Sabados. "We are concerned about this. As you know, ACT UP/Golden Gate earlier this year attacked Stadtlanders for price-gouging people with AIDS. We

hope that Stadtlanders will be more responsive to the community than it was."

The firm narrowly averted a boycott by AIDS activists around the country last April by announcing it would discount the price of Crixivan, a protease inhibitor manufactured by Merck and exclusively distributed by Stadtlanders, to cash-paying customers.

Stadtlanders had initially estimated 80 percent of its customers would receive the drug at "deeply discounted" prices, with mark-ups of only five to 16 percent. However, the initial price of the drug to all customers was \$495 a month — a price mark-up of 37 percent over cost.

After protests, Stadtlanders



The Castro Village Pharmacy sale has alarmed some AIDS activists.

discounted the drug 20 percent — or \$13.20 a day — to consumers who joined its "Community Prescription Service" program.

Three months later, in July, Counsel Corporation, which specializes in home healthcare services and institutional and specialty pharmacy services, acquired a majority interest in Stadtlanders, with a 65 percent stake.

ValueRx, which currently owns Castro Village, is the largest prescription benefit management company not associated with a drug maker or provider entity. According to the joint announcement of the sale, it is selling the store to "focus on its strategic direction to become the nation's largest medication management company." ▼

Kick-off potluck for new alternative family group next Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

Alternative Family Coalition (AFC) is a new lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender family organization being created to encourage and support community building among families and the agencies that support them. The new group will be having a celebratory kick-off potluck on Saturday, January 4.

Cheryl Deaner, who recently left Alternative Family Project (AFP), is the executive director of AFC. Deaner founded AFP, a San

Francisco State University-sponsored family counseling and support program, in 1993.

"In the past five years, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered family community has grown tremendously, and so have the organizations that serve them," Deaner said. "The time has come for a coalition to support the families and groups who are changing the definition of what it means to be a family in this country."

In addition to the January 4 kick-off, AFC is planning to host monthly family-oriented events

and plans two major events next year. One will involve helping produce the family events at the pride parade and the second is hosting a "Family Day" celebration at the San Francisco Unitarian Center in October.

Deaner said the AFC is in the process of incorporating as a non-profit agency, and hopes to have that status by mid-1997. ▼

The kick-off potluck will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (415) 681-1860 for location.

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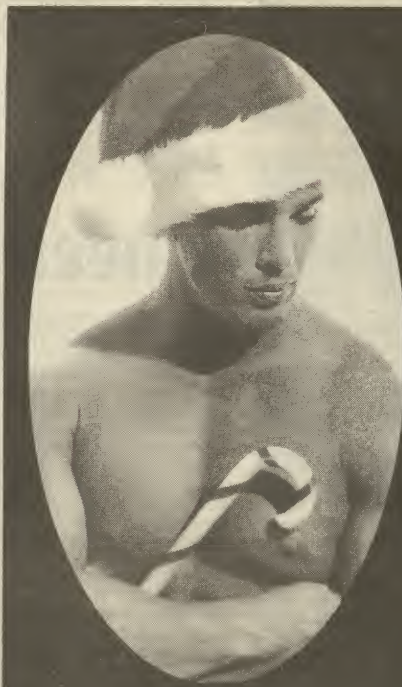


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recycled paper using soy-based inks.Our favorite year –
and it's still to come

Last year at this time, as everyone was trying to imagine what 1996 would bring, we predicted in this space that the Republicans would nominate an unelectable candidate for president, that we gay and lesbian folk might get the right to marry each other, and "that research on HIV will catch up some against the virus." All of which has come to pass in varying degrees. (Admittedly the marriage thing is still tenuous, since the judge who agreed there is no compelling reason to prohibit gay weddings immediately stayed his own order for a while; even so, we are undeniably closer to legalized gay marriage than ever before.)

We also referred to the imminent Supreme Court decision on the heinous Amendment 2, but without really daring to suggest how the judgment would be rendered. As it turns out, our fondest hopes were realized, with all except the three most fundamentally bigoted justices ruling against it. In fact, the court went beyond that and sternly scolded those hatemongers who brought the case in the first place, giving the first indication that our pleas for equality do not fall on deaf ears there.

But the big news, of course, is on the HIV front, where optimism no longer seems as childish as in the previous 14 years. Obituaries in the B.A.R. continue to decline – there are only two this week – to the point where it is possible to imagine a week with none. And if that thought doesn't put you in a celebratory mood to toast 1996 as it exits, nothing can. (Still, and this bears repeating, the epidemic is not over.)

So what's next? 1997. The year of action after the year of hope. There are still a million things to accomplish in the next 12 months, from getting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act passed in the U.S. Senate to reestablishing funding priorities in AIDS care, and from taking "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to the Supreme Court to bringing gender-neutral marriage laws to the mainland.

Not that it's going to be easy. The bigots who have lined their pockets by selling hatred and homophobia rely on making money that way – they aren't qualified for

other work, generally speaking – so it's fairly certain they'll maintain their obnoxious civil warmongering; the welfare reform bill that the president signed last year is going to haunt the hell out of every city in America until something is done to soften it (literally hundreds of thousands of poor people with AIDS and other disabilities are going to get substantially poorer, to the point where they will be unable to pay their rent, exacerbating an already intolerable homeless situation); and the government in Washington is still corrupt, unresponsive, and flirting with fascism.

Which is why 1997 must be the year of action. Although we definitely need a breather from the hard work of fighting oppression and tending to our sick, we don't have the luxury of taking any time off. Gays and lesbians must keep up the pressure, on a president who releases an insultingly anemic "AIDS Strategy," on a Congress that sees

a need for a DoMA but not an ENDA, on California lawmakers running amok as they try to jail people who sell medical marijuana to sick patients, and on the distinctly anti-Christian "Christaholics" (to use Dragzilla's delicious phrase) who still want to kill us for fun and profit.

Instead of relaxing, this is where we should be getting our second wind. It's the time to synchronize our hearts and minds, steady our breathing, and push forward for greater accomplishments.

This year, when you make your New Year's resolutions, be sure that one of them is to be more involved in your own life than ever before. Go to more meetings; write more letters to your representatives; speak out more about the things that matter to you.

Now that we know we have the power to change the world, all that's left is the doing. And that's what the next 365 days are for.

Happy New Year. ▼



Editorial

DATES WITH DESTINY

Anxious to get moving in January? Some important meetings you may want to attend:

Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council
(formerly known as Ryan White council)
January 13 and 27
4:30 p.m.
SF AIDS Foundation
10 United Nations Plaza, 6th floor
(Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month)
Info: 554-9136

Board of Supervisors
January 6, 11, 20, and 27
12:00 p.m.
City Hall
401 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets every Monday)
Info: 554-5184

HIV Prevention Planning Council
January 9, and possibly January 23
3:00 p.m.
Unitarian Church
1187 Franklin, at Geary
(Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month, occasional meeting on the 4th Thursday)
Info: 554-9000

Health Commission
January 7 and 21
3:00 p.m.
SF Department of Public Health
101 Grove Street, Room 300
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month)
Info: 554-2666

— compiled by Michael Petrelis

Why we need ENDA in 1997

by James A. Smith IV

In light of the recent Hawaii decision concerning same-sex marriages, I would like to express my thoughts on a similar high profile news story. This deals with the Employee Non-Discrimination Act that failed last year. It is said that the gay community is trying to get "special rights" when this measure came before Congress. Well, let me explain what had taken place in my situation and then make a decision on whether "special rights" is the proper term to be used.

I worked for General Electric Corporation in Ft. Wayne, Indiana for over 16 years. I went to work daily and gave GE untold hours of overtime, and with countless emergency call-ins as a maintenance electronics tech. In April of 1992, my other half and I were on vacation in Florida, where I required emergency surgery for a ruptured esophagus. When I returned to work the attitudes towards me changed dramatically. Because of illness-related weight loss, rumors began to spread that I had AIDS. From this moment, I started to get harassment in the form of vandalism to my vehicle and personal belongings.

The company supervisor in my work area insisted that I provide the management detailed medical reports from my doctor whenever I was off from work for any type of illness. It was conveyed that this information was needed to keep me from being disciplined for missing work.

Soon, derogatory remarks began to appear all over the company walls and in the supervisor's office in spraypaint and indelible marker, my "shop" was vandalized and my personal belongings were destroyed by someone throwing an inky, oily substance all over the place. Each time something like this would take place I would inform the employee-relations manager, in which the same remarks would be expressed to me that I was not to worry about it. This and much more harassment went on for over two years, when finally in August 1994 I was doused with a caustic acid-based enamel from high above the plant's catwalk. This sent me to the local hospital for chemical burns on the upper torso. The Fort Wayne police were called in to investigate this by the paramedics who responded to the emergency.

A few days after this happened I was telephoned by a lawyer for GE who stated that GE would relocate me to another facility. I quote him as saying, "You people like San Francisco, why don't we send you out there and you can start over with a clean slate." As though I did something wrong!

The EEOC investigated and determined that there was reasonable cause to believe that the charge is true and it was imperative for GE to eliminate the alleged unlawful employment practice because the investigation revealed that I "was subjected to severe and pervasive harassment over a two-year

period."

As of this writing, nothing has been done to rectify this situation to a satisfactory conclusion. I have been told by fellow workers that I am "persona non grata" by the company, and that my "safety cannot be guaranteed" if I returned to work.

The point I am trying to make is if a person who is by all means a loyal, productive, and taxpaying individual cannot go to work without experiencing such unwarranted treatment, what legal methods are in place to redress these situations? I believe that the majority of Americans would see the necessity of such a bill as the one brought to the senate floor by Edward Kennedy.

Please write to your congressional members and express your views on this issue. It would also be nice if the good people of this land would express themselves to General Electric in hopes that this company can move forward in the next century, by including all of its employees to "bring good things to life." ▼

Write to:
John F. Welch, CEO
General Electric Co.
3135 Easton Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06431

Write to:
Senator [put in your Senator's name]
Washington, DC 20510



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Moonlighting

San Francisco Police Officer Joe Bannon, who also works for the Bureau of Narcotics and Enforcement, is a gay man who was most responsible for the raid on the San Francisco Buyers Club, which distributed marijuana to sick people. Bannon moonlights as a security guard at the popular gay bar in the Castro called the Cafe. Bannon is a thug with a bad temper who posed as an AIDS patient to enter the Buyers Club. The Buyers Club mostly served gay men with AIDS. I find it repulsive to have a traitor to our community working in the heart of the gay community. How can a gay man turn in his comrades and hurt people with AIDS? Tell the Cafe you don't appreciate a narc and a traitor working in our community.

David Smith
San Francisco

Drug habits

Re: "Revealed: the smoking habits of people who watch drag pageants" (Dec. 5): I must express heartfelt thanks to Rene M. Astudillo and his courageous band of health researchers for setting my mind at rest. I have spent countless nights tossing and turning, frantically agonizing over the smoking habits of drag show aficionados. With his pivotal study completed, a horrid weight is removed from my mind.

On a personal level, I tip my hat to Astudillo and his comrades for carving out a profitable niche in the anti-smoker education racket. Of late that field had shown signs of severe overcrowding, but the imagination of the Asian & Pacific Islander Tobacco Education Network is an inspiration to all whose dreams of collecting an unearned salary have been thwarted by reality.

As for his distress over the small number of smokers listing concerns over secondhand smoke as a primary motivation for quitting, I advise patience. Our citizens have not yet been reduced to total imbecility. Common sense, unfortunately, is still the order of the day. A few more idiotic studies, a few more newspapers added enough to print them, and the psychotic guilt advocated by Tobacco Control will surely reign across the land.

Enoch A. Ludlow
San Francisco

The truth about smoking

In response to Raymond Sasso's incredibly ridiculous diatribe entitled "Where there's smoke" [Mailstrom, Dec. 12], I have a few responses. First of all, I don't care whether you choose to smoke or not! I have a right to live in a smoke-free environment which supersedes what you consider "smoker's rights." The truth is, unlike you, most smokers admit that smoking is *not* a choice and they want to quit. The truth is that the only names that can ever be given to represent a "smoker's rights movement" were obtained by tobacco company fronts who use lists of smokers who send in coupons for free cigarettes. The truth is that executives from major tobacco companies have been caught in lies about the health risks of tobacco smoke. The truth is that smokers on their deathbeds have admitted the causes of their pain and suffering in the last days of their lives.

I am allergic to cigarette smoke. Before the non-smoker's movement and the new laws to protect non-smokers, I had to spend days in bed, weeks on antibiotics, sometimes arriving at destinations from long airline flights vomiting, with headaches. And you talk about Fascism! Cigarette smoke has restricted the places I could go, the things I could do, affected my health, and caused the death of friends and relatives. One of my earliest memories is of an uncle in the 1950s attached to oxygen because he had chain smoked. If you want to make parallels and analogies, try the one that compares telling a smoker he's an addict to telling an obsessive drinker he's an alcoholic!

Robert Starkey
San Francisco

Sidewalk distractions

I have been reading, with great interest, on the ongoing problem of street people and filth in the Castro, and I still don't think it's been fully expressed. It's been my notion that the Castro beggars are of two types: the lazy kids who wink and beg; and the poor souls who are not mentally well and should be in a care-giving unit.

As for the garbage and sidewalk distractions, I was in town during Halloween and Election Day. I was approached and offered flyers from No on this, Yes on that, sex clubs, niteclubs, disco events, calendar signings, pizza coupons, coffee coupons, AIDS info, and more. Forget the beggars, try avoiding these! The flyers are all over the streets and sidewalks. The only class act on the sidewalk was the SPCA, who wisely let the animals speak for themselves.

Ron Sapp
Dover, Delaware

Gender Identity - a Disorder?

Number 302.85 in psychiatry's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual is Gender Identity Disorder (GID). Some alarmists have called for the retention of GID saying that if it were removed, insurance would no longer pay for surgery and the few public health services that are available (counseling and in some case hormones) would dry up. These same alarmists claim that transsexuals would have to go back to the bad old days of taking to the streets and bars to buy hormones of dubious quality.

Balderdash!

There might be a temporary interruption of some services, but nature abhors a vacuum, and if the psychiatric model were to disappear tomorrow, a new, purely medical model would appear by next week.

Furthermore, a new concept of transsexualism as a simple medical condition will not and can not happen until we first get rid of the idea of it being a filthy mental disease.

Making this transition might result in more accessibility to insurance-paid surgery than today. Classifying GID as mental illness only adds fuel to the fire of those neo-conservatives who want to deny us services (that we've already paid for through premiums). In actuality today, very few insurance companies will pay, largely due to the way public opinion has been molded.

One transactivist has said that wanting to remove GID constitutes transphobia, as it will deny services to those who need it the most. Yet labeling somebody as a psych category doesn't ensure, and never has ensured, that services will be available when needed.

One bold step in the right direction has been the San Francisco proposal to include in the city employees' health plan access to transsexual medical care - a move covering as many as - gasp - seven people! Yet this modest idea has brought (negative) national attention

and a (positive) demonstration in front of the Chronicle building (B.A.R., Oct. 17, 1996). It's public opinion that will make the difference in the long run, and a psychiatric diagnosis does not help public opinion.

Jennifer Freeman
for Transgender Nation-SF

Gays and quality parenting

A potential benefit from the same-sex marriage controversy is to focus on what is best for our children.

Although my parents were heterosexual, they were as qualified to be parents as blind doctors are qualified to perform brain surgery! They were emotionally wounded, incapable of loving themselves or their children. Of course, I forgive them because they did the best they could. However, the point is that my childhood abuse was perpetrated by heterosexuals. Had my parents been two loving, caring, emotionally mature gays or lesbians, my life could have been potentially happier.

In the legal, political and religious power structures the issue in same-sex marriage is not so much what is best for powerless, helpless children. Let us not forget that children cannot vote, have no money of their own, lack adult knowledge and experience - in short, they are totally dependent on their parents for survival. The real issue is that our legal, political and religious power structures force everyone to conform to the status quo, regardless of how many children's lives are ruined!

When quality parenting occurs, sexual orientation is irrelevant. The fact that the majority of divorced couples, child-molesters, wife-children-batters and spouse-children-murderers happen to be heterosexual has nothing to do with sexual orientation. The same analogy can apply to parents who happen to be homosexual. Gays and lesbians can be good or bad parents depending on the parenting qualities of each individual.

In fact, many lesbians and gays have already been wonderful "spiritual" mothers and fathers. How many millions of gays, lesbians and bisexuals have dedicated their lives to the loving care of millions of children in the fields of teaching, counseling, charity fundraising, recreational agencies, religion, medicine, nursing, child-care, social work, law-enforcement, psychotherapy as well as orphan-care? The legalization of same-sex marriage can confer well-deserved recognition to the quality nurturing that gays and lesbians have been providing children throughout history.

Gilbert A. Rubio
San Diego, CA

Model mayor

Since Mayor Brown is more interested in being a fashion model at charity events than solving the housing crisis and bus crisis in San Francisco, which he was elected to do, I suggest he resign immediately.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

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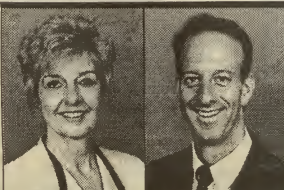
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Tough act to follow

Does anyone else have a problem with the Bay Area Boy Scouts stating gay youngsters will be admitted if they don't "engage in homosexual conduct?" In the 60s that meant going to a Judy Garland concert; in the 70s, a Barbra Streisand concert. There is no reason to believe gay children will be any less well-behaved in public than straight kids.

The problem continues to be thinking of gay people only in terms of an act, while heterosexuals are considered a people. Many still believe homosexuality is just the act, and without the act, everyone would still be straight.

Consider the homophobia involved in Congress enacting the Defense of Marriage Act! As though allowing everyone equal rights under the law somehow endangers those who already have those rights. Would Congress have dared enact a Defense of White People's Act during the 60s, when black people were fighting for their rights?

Anyone who is aware will tell you when someone tries to hide that he/she is gay, he/she is usually perceived of as gay — it comes through because it is status, not the act. As Charles Pierce has put it: "I did not go to my vocational guidance counselor in high school and say, 'I want to be a female impersonator,' she came to me and said, 'Charles, you're a female impersonator!'"

What is needed is a Defense from Misconceptions and Stereotypes Act!

Byron Fagis
San Francisco

'Revive and revise'

I am in the middle of my life. (That can be taken in two ways.)

Now when did I first start thinking that? It feels as big a thought as when I first started saying, "I'm gay." It makes a difference to have about half my life in front of me and half behind me. But what difference it makes, I'm learning as I go along.

I think of the dreams for my life I once had. Some kids I knew wanted to be the usual things: spitting images of their Dad or Grandpa — doctors, businessmen, handymen. Now being the spitting image of my Dad was about the last thing on my list; I wanted to be as different from Dad as I could. I remember going into his office and hating the smell coming from the chemical plant he managed and feeling sick to my stomach. My own wild dreams were of being a translator for the UN, of having my booming voice (haven't gotten that one either) sound across impressive pristine marble chambers as I translate historic speeches for world leaders. Perhaps even being asked to translate for meetings also of spiritual leaders — why not? — say, between the Pope and the Dalai Lama. Why not indeed?

Simple — because I did not study French or German or other languages enough, that's why.

What do I do when I wake up one rainy morning now, in my 40s, and realize that some, maybe many of my dreams have not come true? There are any number of dreams that I have not lived out. This realization has hit me some days with pangs of regret — I hate it but it's true. Regret is a harsh task master. But I've lived with it for a while — I hope no more than anyone else — and have found a way to use it. It came to me in an odd way. I'd prefer just to use desire and longing for something new and deeper in my life as my motivator, but somehow I notice what is not there first. Funny how that works — funny, not "ha ha."

Now please get this: I want not to sound like I figured this all out like people do on dull TV sit-coms, but that's all the space I get in a short essay. Here's how it started. A few years ago, I was speaking with a client who was in his late 40s tell me how his parents had never encouraged him in his aspirations to dance. Quite the opposite: his parents shamed him whenever they saw him dancing in his room. Sound familiar? In the meantime, life intervened and he has gotten asthma. That really put an end to his dancing career. And he felt sad about that.

Then the muses spoke through me: I said I thought his job was now to "revive and revise" his life dreams. I remember him hesitating for weeks because he did not want to revive his old dreams. "If I can't have 'em like they were, why have 'em at all? I'll just feel embarrassed again." But I was persistent: (that is one trait I have wanted for myself and successfully worked to get.)

Eventually, "revive and revise" meant for him to think again longingly about goals that once gave him joy and to make them fit his actual life now. Not the dreams as they once were, in their ill glory and naiveté. But the dreams as he could actually live them now.

Now I could go on about his life, how he got it together to go to cooking school and all that. But I won't. I won't say in this letter how I am applying this motto "revive and revise" in my own life or anything — but it's something I'm thinking of a lot these days. After all, it's winter.

Dr. Mark Lodico
San Francisco, CA

Union label

As my lover and I approach our second year together, and in light of the ruling in Hawaii regarding same-sex marriage, I am experiencing mixed feelings. Marriage is a widely accepted melding of church and state, and whether your house of God is a synagogue, cathedral, or mosque, religion and government together create the rules. It is interesting to me that, as a community, we collectively demand official acknowledgment of our personal unions and, simultaneously, we reject organized religion's position on many issues. Our relationships are unsupported and unrecognized by all major religions. Instead of integrating into this social norm, can we instead design, with a separate name and ceremony, a new and innovative tradition of our own? Maybe the introduction of a bill establishing a distinct *gay-union-with-rights-and-privileges law* would work. Any ideas of a good name for it?

Name withheld by request
San Francisco

Chrysler dealers respond

We must respond to Rand Knox's Guest Opinion in volume 26, number 50 of the *Bay Area Reporter*. As employees of a Chrysler, Plymouth, Jeep, and Eagle dealership in Colma (suburban San Francisco), we have been dealt with fairly by Chrysler. Our management and dealer principals have encouraged us to expand the GLBTQ business by advertising in the local community press and paying the bills. We encourage all members of our community to come and visit us in our showroom, preferably by appointment, so we can give our undivided attention to their needs. Trust us, Chrysler and our dealer principals know that we are gay and that we are in a loving and committed relationship.

The author suggests that Chrysler is somehow "worse than" other automobile manufacturers, because of the recent DMV accusations. Understand that this decision is under appeal and Chrysler says they disclosed the automobile issues to the companies that bought them as used vehicles at a wholesale auction. But the DMV feels they should be held to a higher standard than the wholesalers who bought those vehicles and who failed to disclose the facts to their retail customers. We do not understand how or why Chrysler should be held to that unusual standard.

The author and the website of CARveat Emptor is [sic] hostile, childish and tells you nothing about buying or leasing a car, just that it is somehow, inherently evil. Are there unscrupulous car salespeople in the world? Of course there are! As there are unscrupulous people in all types of business. The automotive business is changing. We are part of that change. Join us in creating change!

We disagree with the author's rationale of how to deal with the automobile industry. If we stick our heads in the sand by boycotting the industry, they will never know our economic clout. We must spend our money there, let them know who we are, and then if they do not recognize us, consider boycotting. Every buyer and person who brings their vehicle in for service at our dealership, receives a survey from Chrysler. Write on your survey that you are a member of the GLBTQ community or a supporter of our rights and send it in to Chrysler. That will make an impression on them.

My lover and I have the highest customer satisfaction index in the sales department. We are top-selling salespeople at our dealership. That makes an impression on Chrysler.

Should Chrysler have a clause protecting our rights in their contract? Absolutely! Should they be boycotted, absolutely not! Buy from us and watch your dollars bring change!

Clark Bufkin
John Nettleton
San Francisco

Cosmetic surgery

Give the old girl a facelift!

Maybe it's because I'm a native that observing a neighborhood icon dissipating really pushes my button.

We have the most profitable cinematic art (out)house in the whole country. How many sold-out performances of *Vertigo* or successful gay, lesbian, Jewish, or animation festivals do we need to warrant a coat of paint? Yes, the Castro Theatre has turned into a boil on the ass of the community. It took forever to get all six neon letters to sparkle in unison at night. Yes, in this season of giving, the emperor needs a new coat. Spray the mildewed stucco and reemboss the marquee de marquises. May the entrance to our village be once again bright and inviting.

We continually support you; don't sell us out. Castro theater, put on a happy (gay) face.

Kenny G.
San Francisco

POLITICS

Jimmy, we hardly knew ye ...

by Wayne Friday

I've just read former President Jimmy Carter's new book, *Living Faith*. It is the 11th book written by the man who unseated interim President Gerald Ford in 1976 only to lose in the 1980 election in a Reagan landslide. This tome, reportedly written in long-hand by the nation's 39th president, is about faith — Jimmy Carter's faith.

During a recent promotional tour that included a stop in San Francisco, hundreds of people lined up to have Carter sign his new work. Probably no president has ever had as strong a spiritual identity as Jimmy Carter.

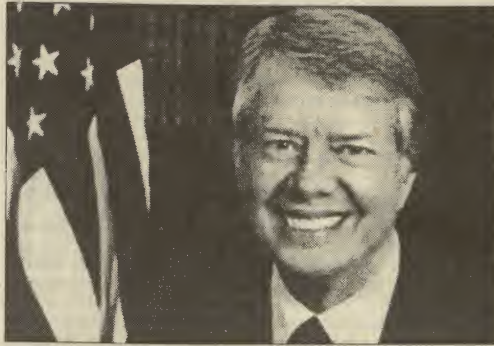
While I read few books on religious faith, this one was different, and, I thought, very interesting. Carter, now 72 and a lifelong Christian, tells of how he nearly lost faith in God after losing a 1966 race for governor of Georgia to **Lester Maddox**, an avowed racist who had become well-known for chasing black customers out of his restaurant with a pick handle. The pick handle even became Maddox's campaign symbol. Carter, then a state senator, says that he even publicly questioned how God "could allow that to happen, to let me to lose to a racist like Maddox."

Carter credits his late sister, evangelist **Ruth Carter Stapleton**, for setting him on a path to regaining his faith in the Almighty, explaining that "Ruth told me to forget about losing a political campaign and how much money I was making and to look for other opportunities." The Man from Plains informs his readers that his sister convinced him to accept an invitation to go on a lay mission given by his church. Questioning his long-held faith still, Carter says that "we [he and his missionary partner] found 100 families with no religious faith; we visited all 100 families. We got to know them, and in the process, my faith was restored." In 1970, Carter was elected to the Georgia governor's office, and in 1976, he was elected to a single term as president.

In *Living Faith* Carter cites three religious thinkers as particularly influential on him: **Reinhold Niebuhr**, **Karl Barth** and **Paul Tillich**. It was Tillich, Carter reminds us, who said "Religion is a search."

Carter, who still regularly teaches Sunday school, notes that "I'm still searching for answers." The man who marked his first full day as president in 1977 by pardoning thousands of Vietnam-era draft evaders writes that "forgiveness is my fountain of faith. Without the knowledge that I can be forgiven, it would not be possible to face my own shortcomings frankly."

Often queried as to what prayer he turned to in times of crisis, Carter answers that when he used to walk to the Oval Office from his White House living quarters, he would repeat a verse from Psalms 19: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy



Former President Jimmy Carter: "I'm still searching for answers."

sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

In an interview during his recent appearance here, Carter stated that "quite often church members resent or avoid any sort of entanglement with people who might be a burden of responsibility on us; we don't seem to want to get directly involved with people who are different, who might be homeless or might be in prison or might have AIDS. This is something too many of us are guilty of." When asked who he does see doing more for the

homeless, AIDS sufferers and the unemployed, the former president replied, "For the most part, the politicians, and not the Christian congregations." Carter says that it isn't that politicians are morally superior, but at a time when many Christians are self-satisfied and reluctant to get involved in the troubled world beyond their congregations, politicians will at least look for the solutions — if only because voters will hold them accountable.

Carter admits that *Living Faith* was the hardest book he's yet attempted: "It was a very difficult book for me to write...intensely personal." He adds that he knew he couldn't "preach" to others without first confessing his own shortcomings "to shed light on the disparity between my secular ambitions and the examples of Jesus Christ."

This latest effort comes at a time when religion seems to have returned to the public fore, its adherents seeking to shape both society and public policy. Christians, in particular, have organized sophisticated precinct organizations, created extensive broadcast networks, and stepped up their lobbying of government.

In recent years, Carter has plunged into good works, including founding the Carter Center, a nonpartisan center that addresses national and international issues of public policy. Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, have also worked extensively with Habitat for Humanity, providing housing for low-income people.

How does a man who many think will one day be the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the disadvantaged reconcile God and human misery? "We have to remember," he says "that the things we elevate to importance are not always important in the eyes of God." In *Living*

Faith Carter reminds us that "if we commit crimes and have to serve time or pay a fine, that's not God's punishment. If we lead a selfish or egocentric life and end up with few friends, our loneliness is not God's punishment. If someone jumps off the top of a building, we cannot expect God to suspend the laws of gravity."

Despite some of my political impressions of Jimmy Carter as President, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Indeed, I would recommend it to anyone interested in either politics and/or "faith."

Politics and people

President **Bill Clinton** put four blacks, two Hispanics and three women in his 1992 Cabinet. To date, he has named two blacks, one Hispanic and four women to his second-term 14-member Cabinet.

Rumors out of Sacramento have Governor **Pete Wilson** with some real health problems as he struggles to regain control of his voice (three different surgeries have failed to correct his lingering vocal cord problem). Meanwhile, some of Wilson's political operatives are said to be "breathlessly waiting" for that Oakland federal judge to rule next month on the term-limits issue. Many think it will be ruled unconstitutional (as it well should be), and Big Pete would then be in a position to again run for governor in hopes of using the office as a launching pad (*encore*) for the 2000 GOP presidential nod.

Dan Addario, chief of the San Francisco District Attorney's Investigative Bureau, last week appointed **Charles LaMorte**, an openly gay longtime investigator in that office, to the position of assistant chief, the first time a gay man has held that post. An excellent choice, I might add.

Despite outgoing White House aide **George Stephanopoulos** claiming that "I kept no notes and don't have a good memory," last week he sold his book rights to publishers Little, Brown for a cool \$3 million.

Bill Clinton's best new appointment in my humble estimation? The aptly named incoming Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**. (Particularly after seeing the CNN news clip where she taught the Macarena to the Prime Minister of Botswana. If she can do that and maintain her composure, this woman can do anything.)

Have a happy, healthy New Year everyone! New Year's Eve will find me enjoying the Jamesian antics of *Beavis and Butthead Do America*, of course! Cheers! ▼



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All the giggles that fit

by Beth Elliott

Entertainment can be where you find it. Since I don't like going a day without reading the morning paper, I get in great need of amusement — that laughing to keep from crying thing. I like it when other writers come up with clever quips, and even when some politician says something stupid.

Of course, if it's stupid and dangerous, it becomes less a laughing matter. Then I put myself into black humor mode and make with the rude comments to myself. I think of it as staying emotionally healthy by taking my daily vitamin B (for "bitch").

One little news squib with great rude remark potential was about Republicans who urged Newt Gingrich to step down as House Speaker during his ethics investigation, to make him less of a daily target for congressional rhetoric. New Republican Congressional Committee chair John Linder (another Georgian) said these critics should "keep their mouths shut." He stated, "If you're going to allow a group of Democrats to use the ethics process for political reasons and win just by forcing him aside, that's just ex-

actly the wrong thing to do."

Silly Republicans — don't they know that tactic's supposed to be for shoving Democrats like the Presidential Bubba aside? Someone commented recently on the Republicans being in a trap vis-a-vis the religious right: they need the votes, but nominating acceptable candidates loses mainstream voters. Read my lips: Rockefeller Republicans.

By the time elections came around, a lot of people were tired of Dole and Clinton's dueling bridge metaphors. One of the best quotes on this subject was: "The only good thing you can say about the bridge metaphor is that you'll never hear Ted Kennedy using it." Dual credit for that one — first Bill Maher about how it made Ted Kennedy uncomfortable, then the foregoing from the *Chronicle's* Debra J. Saunders (following the lead of Bill Maher).

A girl named Tommy

That paper's Pat Steger column is something I may or may not skim on my way to Liz Smith, but there was something about the picture of Dennis Miller next to some A-list babe that caught my eye. (Dennis Miller??? Performing at that benefit concert with Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville. Oh.)

The envelope, please: "While here, Tommy [Hilfinger] launched his new fragrance, 'Tommy Girl.' He's not worried about the name targeting a specific buyer: 'Every girl wants to be a woman, and every woman wants to be a girl,' he said. In case she doesn't, there's his other fragrance, 'Tommy.'"

That was a cute one! But actually, some of us want to be woman, girl, and tomboy, usually pretty much at the same time.

Winner of the

"Um, Is This Some

Kind of Problem?"

Award goes to

Governor Pete

Windsock for

the following

quote: "The [new medical mariju-

ana] law is so badly crafted, so loose-

ly drafted, that it effectively legal-

izes the sale of marijuana." Oh,

Lordy, Lordy, I hope so. We substi-

size tobacco, which has little if any

redeeming social importance.

(I could, however, see smoking

the occasional cigar. I had a

chance to give in to the trend and

try one while chauffeuring

leathermen on a dungeon tour

benefiting the extremely worthy

AIDS Emergency Fund. Once I

established that I realized I was

playing with an addictive drug, it

was enjoyable. Question: As a

high-price, sinful, decadent luxu-

ry with nose-thumbing semiotics,

are cigars here at *fin de siècle* the

equivalent of cocaine at the end of

the '70s? Similarities abound.)

We tax the daylight out of al-

cohol, which though more justifi-able wreaks more havoc than marijuana. But while we got the connection that alcohol prohibition makes gangsterism profitable, we're still being pigheaded about the gangsterism we make

possible — not to mention

theft and burglary to feed

that jones — by getting

moralistic about drug

use by consenting adults.

The only gangsterism from

marijuana prohibition

is people risking violence

on their own land

from trespassing grow-

ers. That and

the official

gangsterism

of CAMP

(their helicopters wouldn't hap-

pen to be black, would they?).

Murky crack

Speaking of drugs, Tom Tomorrow, cartoonist of *This Modern World*, regrettably lost some of his PIC (political independence credibility) points with his riff on the *San Hoser Murky News* series on crack and the CIA. He had Sparky the Penguin literally hit someone over the head with the observation that "The CIA caused the entire crack epidemic."

Um, other papers claim to have documented that Freeway Ricky Ross was peddling crack four years before he met the Contra connection. Question: Why doesn't Ross take those community reparations he demands out of the millions he made addicting

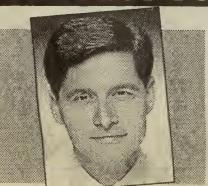
his own community?

Clueless East Coast (Media) Chauvinism Dept.: While writing last month's "Got Milk?" installment and riffing on growing up an Orpheum Theater patron, I thought of all the literary and video works on the subject of growing up in New York, and I wondered what makes that a "normal" topic while writing about growing up in another world-famous, fascinating city — San Francisco — is "regional" or "provincial."

Maybe it was a touch of revenge out of the cosmos, but shortly thereafter, the new Bloomington's at the Stanford Shopping Center ran an ad featuring a contest awarding trips to one airline's "new vacation continent," the Australia/N.Z./Fiji region. Perhaps they should have run it past some local copywriters; I'm sure I'm not the only one who was underwhelmed by the news in bold-face that I could "Win a vacation for two to Pacifica!" Let's see ... I could drive down to Palo Alto for the chance to go to Pacifica. Or was something lost in the translation from New Yawk tawk?

Finally, I quote myself, replying to a Texas Christian friend's e-mail in which I described playing Volcano Girl in terms he could understand: "Think of Hildegard von Bingen in hiking boots." He replied, "Got it. As long as you're not engaging in volcano worship." To which I replied, "Not to worry — don't you have to be a virgin to do that?" ▼

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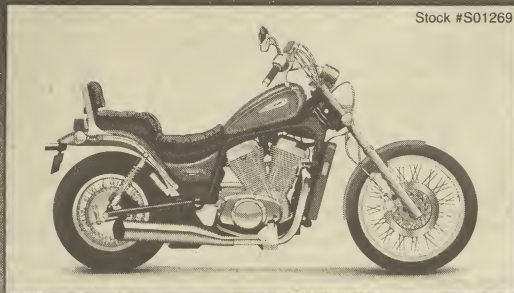
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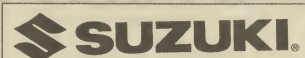
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The death of a contradiction

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Terry Dolan, Reagan supporter and leading fundraiser of the New Right, dies of AIDS at age 36, December 28, 1986.

Ten years ago this week, Terry Dolan, a key conservative activist of the 1980s, died of AIDS. Even as a child, Dolan was active in Republican politics, volunteering for Richard Nixon's 1960 presidential campaign. When he was 25, he helped organize the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), and he soon became that organization's director. Dolan was an extremely talented fundraiser, and many credit him and his organization with the stunning triumph of the New Right in 1980. Dolan worked hard for the nomination and election of Ronald Reagan as president, although his influence was equally significant in the defeat of liberal senators such as George McGovern, Frank Church, and Birch Bayh. The conservatives who replaced them (including Dan Quayle) gave the Republicans a majority in the Senate for the first time in a generation.

Dolan was also gay. He was a regular in the gay cocktail-party circuit of Washington, DC, and often vacationed at gay resorts such as Northern California's Russian River. But Dolan's relationship to the gay-rights movement was complex. Philosophically, Dolan was opposed to gay-rights laws, insisting that the government shouldn't interfere in people's hiring practices. He balanced that view with a strong defense of privacy — which makes sense, because a decade before "outing," he relied on the gay community's discretion to keep him from being discredited among his conservative peers.

In 1982, he granted an interview to *The Advocate* in which he repeated his support for privacy

and criticized "some of the rhetoric that some of my friends in the right have used on gay activism." But Dolan (who later denied those comments) was not above using anti-gay rhetoric himself. NCPAC sent out a fundraising letter that declared "the nation's moral fiber is being weakened by the growing homosexual

When Dolan began to get sick with AIDS, he insisted publicly that he suffered from anemia and diabetes. When he died, his family held a memorial service that excluded Dolan's gay friends. Instead, conservative mourners such as Pat Buchanan and Utah Senator Orrin Hatch came to pay their respects to a key architect of the

conservative activist's family and straight friends were furious. His brother Tony Dolan (a Reagan speechwriter) even took out a two-page ad in the *Washington Times* insisting that Terry Dolan was not gay.

What can we make of a person whose personal and political lives seem so contradictory? Many

tion" on issues such as military spending or taxes — and an individual, regardless of his or her sexual orientation, who feels that conservatives are right on such issues may find him or herself having to face the same challenges Dolan did. But then, gay conservatives find themselves in bed (politically, at least) with a Ronald Reagan or a Jesse Helms, and the conflicts between advancing causes they believe in and maintaining dignity as a gay person become almost insoluble. Given the slow response to the epidemic from the administration he helped put in place, Terry Dolan's death from AIDS made for a final irony in a life full of paradox. ▼

Dolan was not above using anti-gay rhetoric against "the growing homosexual movement and the fanatical ERA pushers (many of whom publicly brag that they are lesbians.)"

movement and the fanatical ERA pushers (many of whom publicly brag that they are lesbians)." Some say Dolan approved the letter, although he apologized for it to the *New York Times*, calling it "totally inappropriate."

In the early 1980s, Dolan joined with former Republican Congressman Robert Bauman, famed discharged gay Vietnam veteran Leonard Matlovich, and several other gay conservatives to found the Concerned Americans for Individual Rights (CAIR). Unlike the gay Republican group the Log Cabin Club, CAIR found little success. Few members were willing to take leadership roles if it meant publicity, and while many gay conservatives offered words of encouragement and even cash donations, few would write checks or even allow their names to be associated with the group. At one point, the group proposed to send out a fundraising letter to find conservatives who would support gay rights, and several of the organizers are said to have requested the names and addresses of any anti-gay responses so they could target those individuals with homophobic fundraising appeals. By the time of Dolan's death, CAIR had largely faded away.

conservative revolution in American government. A separate service was held by Bauman and others who wanted to remember Dolan for all that he was. The *Washington Post* accurately reported the cause of death, and later ran a long article about Dolan's homosexuality. The con-

would settle for a simple answer — Dolan was a self-hating homosexual who never became comfortable with his sexual orientation and expressed his discomfort by trying to hurt all gays and lesbians. But the truth is probably more complicated than that. There is no inherent "gay posi-

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

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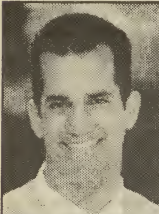
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Angels in America

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

According to an advance copy of the script, GLAAD has learned that the Christmas episode of CBS's *Touched By An Angel*, a highly-rated dramatic series which has received the blessing of so-called "pro-family" groups, would address homosexuality and AIDS. In each episode of the show, angels take human form and weave themselves into earthly storylines, ultimately touching the people they encounter with a message from God. In the Christmas episode, entitled "The Violin Lesson," a son returns home to his family and reveals that he is both gay and dying of AIDS. While the rest of the family is accepting, the father initially rejects his son for being gay. Additionally, the son feels that in being gay and having AIDS, God no longer loves him. One of the principal angels tells him, however, "What you've heard have been someone else's words. Words of hate and confusion. God is not the source of confusion. God's love is perfect." Later, the dad asks an angel what she's doing on "the side of a queer." She replies, "Nothing made by God is queer. God loves all his creations, even the ones that some people see as flawed." With the help of this angel, the father realizes the need to accept and express love for his son in his last moments.

The show, which has been heralded by many Christians for its pro-Christian content, makes a strong statement in saying that gay people and people with AIDS have God's unconditional love, and that those who say otherwise are either hateful or confused. While the statement "Nothing made by God is queer" could be highly offensive if taken out of context, it is clear in the script that what is really being said is that nothing made by God is odd, out of place, or wrong.

Let CBS know that a discussion of gay and AIDS issues on this show is appreciated, and encourage them to include other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and AIDS issues in the future.

Contact: Leslie Moones, President of CBS Entertainment, CBS, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, e-mail: marketing@cbs.com.

Bad advice from Shrink-Link

Shrink-Link, a Web site that supposedly provides "direct E-Mail access to a staff of top clinical psychologists ready to review and comment on almost any important question or conflict in your life" for the price of \$20 a response, has proven you don't always get what you pay for. In order to entice people to use the service, Shrink-Link offers a few sample queries and responses. One of the queries is from a 14-year-old girl who is attracted to a female classmate, recognizes that she has never been attracted to boys, and is seeking advice about what to do. Shrink-Link replied, "Fourteen is a pretty young age to decide whether you are a lesbian. You have a lot more experimenting and exploration of sex ahead of you. You probably will want to give boys a chance - not to force yourself on them - but to try them

out. Boys have a lot to offer in ways other than sex, and you may find that you like their company. It doesn't sound as though you are ready to make such an important decision. There are also important consequences to choosing life as a lesbian. Unfortunately, your parents' viewpoints are typical of our society with regard to homosexuality. Although attitudes are somewhat more enlightened now, and many have 'come out of the closet,' homosexuals are regarded as outcasts and encounter discrimination and hardships."

The Internet has become a lifeline to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, many of whom are just coming out and looking for a safe place to find out more information about their sexual orientation. This kind of bad advice can really confuse a person and add to her sense of isolation. It would be unthinkable for a therapist to reply to a boy-crazy girl that she should "give girls a chance" because she is not ready to "choose life" as a heterosexual. The same, of course, is true for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. What they need is support, not implications that their sexual orientation might be a "phase" or a "choice."

Write Shrink-Link and let them know that their commentary is ill-advised, potentially harmful and insensitive to youth who do not fit the heterosexual mold.

Contact: Shrink-Link, c/o Cyberlink Consulting, Inc., fax: 914.833.0144, e-mail: Shlink@Westnet.com

Bigoted darling du jour

In their campaign for "fresh voices," CBS and MSNBC have spotlighted ultra-conservative "It girl" Laura Ingraham, who is overtly anti-gay and known as much for her blondness as her fast mouth. With limited experience, 33-year-old Ingraham has managed to land CBS's highly-sought political analyst position on the *CBS Weekend News* and is a regular contributor to MSNBC, as well as appearing on *Charlie Rose* and substituting for the *McLaughlin Group* regulars. Ingraham sharpened her lawyer teeth in her early twenties working as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and making allies with such arch-homophobes as Family Research Council president Gary Bauer and Justice Antonin Scalia. Serving as Dartmouth's first female editor of the notoriously conservative *Dartmouth Review*, Ingraham sent a reporter with a concealed tape recorder to a Gay Student Association support group meeting, then published the transcript with an editor's letter calling the GSA "cheerleaders for latent campus sodomites." Her anti-gay rhetoric is not limited to college antics - in 1989, she dismissed a respected *Washington Post* reporter covering the AIDS crisis as "the guy who defends homosexuals for a living."

Diverse points of view make American journalism unique, but a push to expand ratings has created a say-anything, do-anything atmosphere where commentators are chosen for image and outrageousness over substance. Hiring a homophobe of Ingraham's ilk is akin to hiring an openly racist or anti-Semitic analyst, which would, of course, be unthinkable.

Please let CBS and MSNBC know that their choice of anti-gay Laura Ingraham as political pundit is a mistake that discredits them both.

Contact: James Warner, President of CBS Television Network, 524 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019-2902, fax: 212.975.9387, e-mail: marketing@cbs.com; Mark Harrington, Vice President, MSNBC, 2200 Fletchier Ave., Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024, e-mail: opinion@msnbc.com.

He stands with his friends

In the December 14 *Miami Herald*, columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr. wrote an essay entitled, "I Stand With My Friends," about how white liberals often told African-Americans to slow down in their push for civil rights during the 1960s, which parallels the fight for lesbian and gay civil rights today. "They pleaded for delay. Change was coming, they said, the Negro would get his justice, but he was pushing too fast. These 'friends' valued order more than justice and paternalistically presumed to set the timetable for the freedom of others. It occurs to me that perhaps I have been a 'friend of the homosexual,' less than the true friend I ought to be than a go-slow, be-cautious, I'm-on-your-side-but voice of prudence," he says. "We fail to understand that change always comes too fast, which is why it scares us. So I'm pleased by what happened in Hawaii. I admire the crusaders of gay America for the fact that it happened not just in the face of opposition from enemies, but also of ambivalence from friends. It's simple, really. I stand with my friends."

Please thank Pitts for a valuable article, and commend the *Miami Herald* for publishing such an important message about the connections between different groups in our struggle for civil rights.

Contact: Leonard Pitts, Jr., c/o *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, Florida 33132-1693, fax: 305.376.5287, e-mail: heraldedit@aol.com.

Washington Post warns of pitfalls for AIDS optimism

In a December 15 *Washington Post* op-ed, under the headline "Hyped Promises Threaten the Search for a Cure," *Village Voice* (and former B.A.R.) reporter Mark Schoofs advises other journalists that in their rush to proclaim the "end of AIDS" they may have been doing the public a disservice. World AIDS Day sparked a blaze of AIDS-related articles in the mainstream media - including *Newsweek* and the *Wall Street Journal* - which, while full of well wishes for HIV and AIDS patients responding positively to new drug treatment regimens, almost lost touch with the reality that because many patients have difficulty maintaining these complicated and expensive medical treatments, they are in peril of developing an HIV strain resistant to the drugs. These recent findings are likely only the "beginning of the beginning of the end," according to Schoofs. "The only hope for ridding the world of HIV is a vaccine," which appears possible, though vaccine research receives substantially less funding than treatment studies. "Without cannibalizing treatment research, we must dedicate ourselves to developing a treatment," Schoofs says. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bray puts a new S.P.I.N. on the future

by Jennifer Maerz

Current discussion among progressive activists reveals increased concern over the Christian Right's successful public relations machine that is with-out equal on the left. Recently, journalists shining a light on the gaping hole in a collective progressive agenda have ranged from CNN political commentator Farai Chideya, author of the article "Why Liberals Stink ... At Selling Themselves," to Kirk Victor's *National Journal* article on the failure of the liberal group People for the American Way to successfully shape its stance.

Robert Bray, former media director and field organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and self-proclaimed "media queen and movement spinmeister," has made it his mission to change all this.

Last Thursday, December 19, Bray left his NGLTF office in San Francisco to launch his new media campaign called S.P.I.N. (Strategic Progressive Information Network) — affiliated with San Francisco's Institute for Alternative Journalism (IAJ) — in January. NGLTF will close the office, rather than replace Bray.

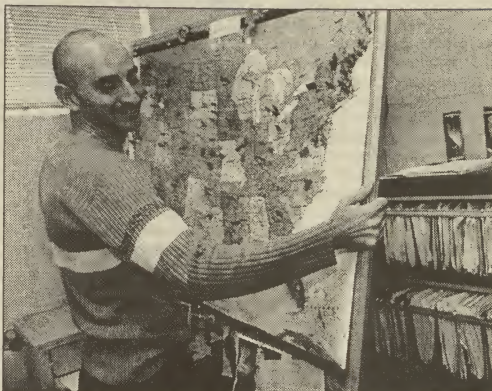
As the head (and sole member so far) of S.P.I.N., Bray's plan is two-fold: he will demystify the media for grassroots organizations and teach them how to work effectively with the press; and he will train progressive p.r. people to patch what he calls the "fractured nature of the left."

Although his work hasn't even begun, Bray already has his fans.

"Progressive activists don't use the media effectively," said Christine Triano, IAJ's program director. "But Robert is a whiz; he's done hundreds of media trainings." She added that Bray's ideas fit in with the non-profit's mission, which includes a commitment to democratizing media by opening it up for a variety of voices.

Skill honing

To solidify a powerful progressive base, Bray said p.r. people have to start by networking. "I will be organizing p.r. people of the



Moving on: Robert Bray.

left to bring together those who have the ability to shape public opinion and at least get us in each other's Rolodexes," he said.

"The right, aside from all the infighting, at least is all on the same page when it comes to an overlying message," Bray told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"We're not only not on the same page, we're not in the same book, let alone the same library," he quipped.

According to Bray, the timing for collective action is imperative. "My campaign comes at a time when there is downsizing in the media," he said. "Political activists need to hone their skills to compete with less space for their side to get heard."

Bray pointed out that many progressive groups could learn from the successes of p.r. people in the gay rights movement who have done a good job of getting themselves heard. He said gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders have years of experience educating the media about AIDS and carrying their stories of violence to the press, which has positioned them to play leadership roles in setting progressive agendas and fighting oppressive conservatism.

"We are in the unique position — because of a combination of professional skills and enduring 25 years of struggle — to now have greater success in exposing the lies

of the right about us," he said.

"What once was 'the love that dare not speak its name' is now the love that won't shut up," he joked.

Even Peter LaBarbera, head of the ultra-conservative Americans for the Truth About Homosexuality, admits to the success of the p.r. wing of the gay movement. In a recent *Washington Post* article, LaBarbera said, "I think [the gay/lesbian] side is winning, especially in the public relations battle."

Bittersweet good-bye

Although Bray is excited about his new venture, he said that leaving NGLTF — his home for the past eight years — is bittersweet. "I'm going to miss the day-to-day excitement and frustration of gay activism," he told the *B.A.R.* Although he is not leaving the gay movement entirely — he will still work with activist groups — he is sad to leave the movement when he thinks it is poised to be very exciting in the near future, with the emerging visibility of the transgendered and bisexual community and the emergence of gay youth activists, among other issues.

The mixed feelings in Bray's departure are reciprocated by the NGLTF. "We will miss him, but know he will not be going that far away," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF's executive director-designate. ▼

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E. Bay Housing

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area and will help meet a great unmet housing need.

"It's a good time of year to do something that's right," King added.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay, one of the leaders in providing social and supportive services to persons living with AIDS, will coordinate the on-site services at Concord House, Kirk said.

King praised Catholic Charities' work at other projects, saying, "They've always been a good provider and a good neighbor."

Public transportation, recreation opportunities and programs, banks, shops, libraries, and volunteer opportunities will all be within easy access of residents, Kirk added.

Reilly and Kirk said they don't anticipate difficulty getting residents for Concord House. Residents will be selected about two months before the facility opens.

Kirk said that outreach work will be done in the HIV and homeless communities and also through service providers, Catholic Charities of the East Bay, and the county's AIDS Office.

The planned Hayward facility is the third component of RCD's East Bay AIDS Housing Initiative, which is a total of seven projects that will more than double the amount of affordable AIDS housing in the East Bay.

RCD created the AIDS housing initiative in 1994 to help meet this tremendous need. While over 13,600 residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties are HIV-positive, and over 2,100 are living with AIDS, there are currently only 60 permanent units earmarked for PWAs in the East Bay.

The initiative's goal is to provide a continuum of affordable housing options for PWAs, from permanent housing for individuals who can live independently to shared living arrangements that offer more intensive services.

In February, RCD opened the

doors to the newly renovated Harrison Hotel, an historic 81-unit single room occupancy hotel in downtown Oakland. Fourteen of the units are for PWAs. The Harrison Hotel has both an on-site primary care medical clinic and an integrated support team that provides vocational, mental health, and substance abuse recovery services to residents.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing provides the clinic and support team.

In March, the Marlon Riggs Apartments opened in the Adams Point area of Oakland, consisting of 12 one-bedroom apartments and one resident manager's unit. Catholic Charities of the East Bay provides the supportive services for the project. Marlon Riggs was a highly acclaimed filmmaker and a longtime Oakland resident who died of AIDS in 1994. ▼

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would form a new ministry to lesbians and gays. The Right Reverend **Charles Otis**, the only openly gay Episcopal Bishop, announced the founding of Oasis/California at a January 13 service. The service was held to support another retired bishop who was being tried for heresy for ordaining lesbians and gays to the Episcopal priesthood.

The same issue of the paper detailed the expulsion of San Francisco's **St. Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church** from the 5.2-million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the 1990 ordinations of a lesbian couple and a gay man as Lutheran pastors. The churches had been initially suspended for five years.

Mayor **Willie Brown** took the oath of office on January 8. Brown defeated incumbent Frank Jordan for the post.

The January 11 issue of the *B.A.R.* carried a report that Sheriff Mike Hennessey had ended a longstanding practice of segregating gay and straight inmates at the San Francisco County jail facilities. Inmates would no longer be segregated because of sexual orientation but because of vulnerability, medical or psychiatric need, or because they posed a threat to other inmates.

Longtime gay and lesbian veterans' affairs activist and civic booster **Dr. Paul Hardman** died at the age of 72. A WWII veteran, Hardman went toe-to-toe with

the conservative American Legion and helped form the lesbian and gay veterans Alexander Hamilton Post of the group.

On the national news front, the January 18 *B.A.R.* reported that Clinton Administration officials were appealing a Second U.S. Court of Appeals ruling which concluded the Commander-in-Chief's anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy was unconstitutional.

After a two-week postponement, the Board of Supervisors voted to fund the **Salvation Army** to provide homeless services. Supervisor Tom Ammiano was the lone opponent. In exchange for the funds, Supervisor Carole Migden brokered a deal that the group would submit to monitoring of contract compliance, and publish a statement that lesbians and gays have full rights as social equals. Army officers would receive sensitivity training in exchange for the cash.

A non-profit company that was originally a spin-off from Larkin Street Youth Center announced that it would open a **Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream** franchise on Castro Street.

A news report in the final January issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* also detailed that a troubled housing project which provided shelter and social services to East Bay homeless people – including some with HIV/AIDS – would lose its \$2.5 million contract for services. **Coit Apartments** had been the subject of scores of complaints to the Oakland Housing authority.

February

On February 1, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors held a hearing into quality of care issues for people with HIV/AIDS at **Kaiser Hospital**, the largest provider of medical services to city workers. The hospital lacked an HIV/AIDS specialty practice – and availability of up-to-date care and treatment varied widely throughout the health maintenance group's Northern California regions. The HMO was also under fire for failing to pay for HIV viral load testing and denial of human growth hormone for people with AIDS-related wasting, both routinely available through other providers.

Another front page story in the February 1 issue detailed that a new combination of drugs to fight AIDS (the protease inhibitor Crixivan + 3TC + AZT) lowered the amount of HIV to "undetectable levels" for as long as 24 weeks in 85 percent of patients with HIV infection. The drug's maker was expected to file an application with the Food and Drug Administration for approval of the drug.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that allowed **domestic partner registrants** to pay an extra \$30 and have a city clerk perform a ceremony – just like civil ceremonies for heterosexuals – seeking a marriage license. The measure passed a week after a state Assembly committee blocked a bill to prohibit the recognition of **same-sex marriages** performed outside of California. But that bill was later passed by the Assembly and sent to the state Senate.

Mayor Willie Brown appointed five more lesbians and gays to city commissions – including **Martha Knutzen**, who lost a bid for a second term as president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, lesbian health advocate and Women's Building activist **Roma Guy**, and Adult Probation Officer **Sharon Bretz**. **Alan Huie** and **Stanlee Gatee** also received appointments.

A story from a Los Angeles correspondent in the February 8 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* detailed that while 3,000 AIDS activists showed up for **Ronald Reagan's** birthday party at exclusive Chasen's restaurant, Reagan didn't. The event was a \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser.

A San Francisco woman became the second in the country to receive **Her2/neu**, an experimental drug for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

President Bill Clinton announced that he would sign the annual Defense Authorization Bill – even though it contained a rider by anti-gay California Rep. Bob Dornan that would require the immediate discharge of all **HIV-infected military personnel**, an estimated 1,000 servicemembers. The rider also would ban abortions for servicewomen at overseas military medical sites.

A San Francisco gay man was forced to have a special bloodtest to prove he was not the father of a San Diego County welfare recipient's child. The San Diego County District attorney notified **Jeff Keegan** that the woman claimed he was the father of her child – and threatened to sue him for

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child support in the matter. Keegan had never met the claimant and hadn't had sex with a woman since he'd come out — eight years earlier. The woman later said he was not the father.

Ten ACT UP members from around the country received \$20,000 each seven years after they were illegally **strip-searched** in Portland, Oregon, following a 1989 demonstration at the local Food and Drug Administration office. A former attorney for the U.S. attorney's office, and activist **Michael Petrelis** were among the activists receiving the out-of-court settlements.

A San Francisco gay landlord was sued over his eviction of a PWA — whom he erroneously claimed had drinking problems that disturbed his neighbors. **Anthony Di Genova** filed the eviction suit against **John Hughes**. Hughes's attorney claimed the eviction was an attempt to jack up rents in the property. Di Genova was the head of the San Francisco Chapter of Girth and Mirth, a social club for very overweight gay men and their erotic admirers. Di Genova withdrew the suit against Hughes after the story, but not before the B.A.R. was severely chastised by well-known writer **Thom Bean**, a former official with the club, for the way the paper characterized the club and its members. Bean died of massive heart attack two days after the *Bay Area Reporter* published his letter.

March

According to the March 7 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, a gay man claimed he was sexually abused by a **Laguna Honda Hospital** health worker who pulled down his pants and exposed an erect penis, then pulled down the victim's pajama bottoms and fondled his penis. The victim was immobilized because of casts on hands and feet due to a fall. The city later denied the claim, but the worker was fired from his job as an attendant at the site.

In one of the major stories of the year, a March 7 article detailed that **protease inhibitors** were nearing the last stages of an accelerated approval process, and would be available for use as anti-HIV treatments as soon as mid-March.

Reality brand condoms, an internal pouch-like apparatus, initially made available for use by women but never approved by the FDA for anal sex, would be made available to gay men in San Francisco. 500 were initially ordered by the city.

Noted AIDS prevention lecturer and former Marlboro Man **Christian Haren** died of AIDS on February 27 at his Castro District



State Senator Sheila Kuehl was the first woman and first openly gay person to become California's Speaker Pro Tem.

home. He had been diagnosed with AIDS 11 years earlier.

The California State Supreme Court ruled that two gay men who had been arrested for **public lewdness** had been arrested solely on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation — a violation of state anti-discrimination laws. The two had been detained outside a Mountain View adult bookstore for allegedly soliciting sex from undercover officers in a sting operation.

In an effort to reflect its inclusive gender and sexual orientation policies, the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance announced that it would change its name to **Pride At Work/San Francisco Bay Area**. The group had been active in San Francisco since the mid-1970s boycott of Coors Beer.

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco in the Castro District celebrated its 25th anniversary.

District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** issued a 213-count fraud warrant against gay man **Lonnie Dean Lewis**, who allegedly posed as a psychiatrist and duped scores of inner city patients and stole some of his clients' federal welfare benefits.

Violence against gays and lesbians dipped eight percent in 1995, according to a March survey issued by the national Coalition of Anti-Violence programs. With 21,212 attacks in 1995, New York reported 652 incidents, San Francisco reported 324 with its much smaller population pool, Los Angeles reported 256 incidents, and Minneapolis/St. Paul reported 218 incidents.

On Thursday, March 28, openly lesbian San Francisco Supervisor **Carole Migden** was sworn into the California State Assembly. She became the second lesbian Assemblywoman in California history, joining Santa Monica activist **Sheila Kuehl**.

Gay military veteran **Perry**

Watkins died of AIDS on March 21. Watkins had successfully sued for reinstatement into the United States Army after he was discharged in 1982 on the grounds that he had been drafted into the service in 1967 as an openly homosexual 19-year-old.

April

The *Bay Area Reporter* celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The **San Francisco New Main Library** opened to the general public on April 16 — including its new **James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center**.

Latino newspaper publisher and gay man **Juan Pifarre**, 53, was found beaten to death in his Bernal Heights home. Police later arrested **Steven Nary**, a 19-year-old sailor stationed aboard the Alameda-based U.S.S. Carl Vinson, for the crime.

San Francisco Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi** introduced legislation to turn the **AIDS Memorial Grove** at Laveaga Dell in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park into a national monument. The 15-acre wooded basin is the nation's first living memorial to hundreds of thousands of people who have died of AIDS, as well as a retreat for those living with HIV and their loved ones. **ACT UP/Washington DC** was less than happy with the proposal, and immediately denounced Pelosi for a publicity grab.

Jesse Costello-Good, age 17, was appointed to the Youth Commission as an openly gay member by Supervisor Tom Ammiano. **Kent Khounsombath**, 19, an openly gay Cambodian youth, was appointed by Supervisor Mabel Teng.

In April, a Castro Street bar called **Night Shift** began an eight month morph into **Una Mas**, a Mexican fast-food franchise with a decidedly up-tempo decor that some called garish. The site was an unofficial historic landmark once known as the **Nothing Special**, one of a handful of pioneering gay enterprises in the once-straight working-class Castro neighborhood.

A Castro merchants group said the non-profit corporation that

next page ►

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produced the annual **Castro Street Fair** should be denied permits for the annual October event until the group opened its books to the public. Members expressed surprise that the fair's executive producer received more than \$35,000 in salary, but the event returned little to the community.

A gay waiter fired from his job at **Emporio Armani**, a chic Grant Street eatery, filed a multi-million dollar sexual harassment lawsuit charging a manager at the site with sexual harassment. Scot Johnson also charged that he was retaliated against for informing the company that hired the manager about the sexual abuse.

AIDS activist groups around the country considered a boycott of **Stadtlanders**, a national mail order pharmacy, after the company announced a 37 percent markup in the price of Crixivan. The protease inhibitor was set to retail at \$495 a month — pricing it beyond the reach of thousands of people with AIDS. The company quickly announced that they would only mark the price up 19 percent, averting the boycott.

University of Chicago law school graduate and author of the 1988 Chicago Human Rights ordinance **Irwin Keller** was appointed to head San Francisco's AIDS Legal Referral Panel, the oldest HIV legal service in the country.

In a major victory for gay and lesbian veterans rights activists, the city's Human Rights Commission found the California Department of the **American Legion** discriminated against the Alexander Hamilton AL post over a two-year period. The Legion discriminated by refusing to run ads for the gay and lesbian post and made frequent anti-gay remarks and comments about the post. Supervisor Tom Ammiano said the group would have to cease discrimination or be thrown out of its offices in the city War Memorial Building.

The Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Community College District voted to keep the U.S. Military's **Reserve Officer Training Corps** off the City College campus until the military lifted its ban against gay and lesbian servicemembers.

Republican US District Court Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong, a former Oakland police officer and Alameda County District Attorney, ruled that the California National Guard had violated constitutional protections against **Lt. Colonel Andrew Holmes** for discharging him after he disclosed his sexual orientation to a commanding officer.

The **Gay and Lesbian Medical Association** surprised many by deleting the word "transgender" from its letterhead — and began identifying itself as a group of gay, lesbian, and bisexual physicians. GLMA executive director Ben Shatz countered that the group did not use HIV in the letterhead, either.

May

San Franciscans who remembered entertainer **Eddie Murphy's** virulent, anti-gay comic routines that mocked and attacked effeminate gay men and people with AIDS set about making his efforts to film a movie in San Francisco a nightmare. Murphy made amends by apologizing for his early routines, in a public statement that explained that he was a young and foolish and immature person at the time.

The Dornan anti-HIV service-members amendment was removed from the Defense Appropriations bill by Congress before it went to President Clinton for signature.

ACT UP!/Golden Gate urged San Francisco to provide bottled water to visitors and patients at all public health facilities, city offices, jails, and institutions, because of the threat of **cryptosporidium**, a parasite lethal to people with AIDS, in city tap water.

Longtime civil rights attorney Mary Dunlap, who has argued before the United States Supreme Court, was appointed to head San Francisco's troubled **Office of Citizen Complaints**, which investigates complaints against police officers.

Fifteen years into the epidemic, the Centers For Disease Control issued its first report on **Lesbians and HIV** and made 25 policy recommendations, including a review of treatment policies to determine if there is a heterosexual bias that would lead to poor care.

Longtime gay civil rights and media watchdog Al Kielwasser was out as a co-chair in a putsch at the local — and once independent — chapter of the national **Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation**. Co-chair Bonnie Haley was out as well. Managing director Christine Bullini was critical of the pair when she resigned, but later joined down her concerns.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals denounced AIDS activist Jeff Getty for animal cruelty, for the killing of a baboon in order that Getty could receive the first-ever baboon-human bone marrow transplant. The "animal rights" activist group also charged fraud in a study that led to approval of the experimental procedure.

Both President Clinton and Robert Dole announced that they opposed **gay marriage**. Dole's "Defense of Marriage Act" went before a House subcommittee in mid-May. Clinton subsequently announced that he would sign the measure.

Wigstock West, San Francisco's version of the New York drag extravaganza, was held at Fort Mason. The show was a fundraiser for two gay groups — the Stop AIDS Project and the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

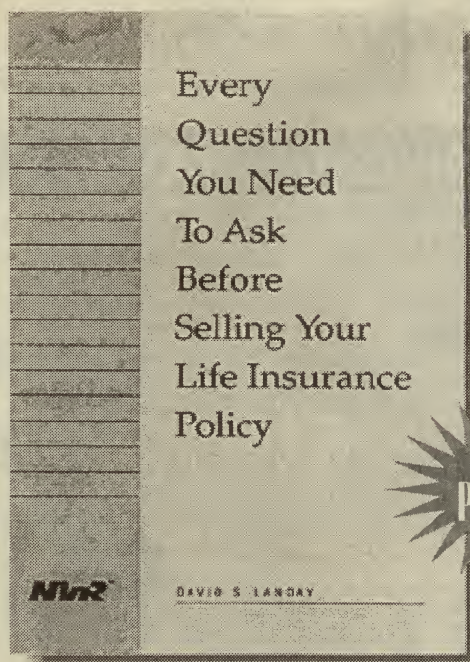
Several gay men reported that a man who approached them for sex in **Buena Vista Park** stole their wallets and other items after having sex with them. The thief assaulted victims who confronted him — in one case breaking a young man's fingers so badly they required metal pins. The assailant was also discovered to have stolen his victims' identities — assuming their names and using their identification in the commission of other crimes. The alleged assailant was ultimately arrested and jailed on felony charges and currently is scheduled for trial in early 1996.

Lesbian magazine **Curve**, formerly known as **Deneuve**, held a benefit to raise cash for the legal costs of a court fight against them launched by actress **Catherine Deneuve** over the use of her surname as the magazine's name. The publisher maintained the magazine was named after her first love — whom she then declined to name.

The 13th International **AIDS Candlelight Vigil** drew hundreds for the annual commemoration, which took place without incident.

Former San Mateo AIDS Office chief **Dr. Gene Copello** became the chief of the new Health and Prevention branch of the San Francisco Department of Health's

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1996 IN REVIEW



Katz's pajamas: Popular lesbian attorney Leslie Katz became a supe in May and was elected to that post in November.

AIDS office. Copello's doctorate is from Vanderbilt University — in Divinity.

Longtime activist Scott Walton became the Executive Director of **Digital Queers**.

In a landmark ruling, the United States Supreme Court ruled on Monday, May 20 that Colorado's **Amendment 2** was unconstitutional — and that homosexual people as a class constitute a class entitled to equal protection under the law. The Clinton Administration's failure to write amicus briefs or points supporting an overturn of the measure would become part of gay history — and legal textbook commentary for generations to come.

Mayor Willie Brown appointed openly lesbian attorney San Francisco Democratic apparatchik **Leslie Katz** and **The Rev. Amos Brown**, an African-American minister, to vacancies on the Board of Supervisors. Reaction to Brown's appointment was mixed in the gay community.

The GodFather Service Fund, a local AIDS charity that provides personal care items and other materials to hospitalized AIDS patients throughout San Francisco, suspended Chris Pucinelli as a board member of the 14-year-old group. Pucinelli allegedly embezzled more than \$10,000 from the group's coffers by placing contributions she obtained without authorization into a dummy account she allegedly set up. She later paid the \$10,000 back, but an investigation continued as more checks turned up missing. The group learned of the alleged crime when a donor called to say he had not received acknowledgment of a substantial cash bequest.

Members of the **Presidential Commission on AIDS** and other AIDS VIPs from Washington, D.C. held a meeting in San Francisco on May 24. A local activist was arrested in the incident. Ostensibly designed to seek public input into AIDS policies, critics charged the event was a "dog and pony" show that was less about AIDS policies than a public relations stunt for the Commission and its members, AIDS officials, and the beleaguered Clinton Administration.

June

In its June 6 issue, the **B.A.R.** reported that after three years of being housed at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Noe Valley, the **Alternative Family Center** was forced out of its offices because too many lesbian and gay families with children used the services of the center. According to the University of San Francisco Center For Child and Family Development, AFS services had been oriented to gay and lesbian parents — and not inclusive enough of other groups such as homeless families, foster families, and heterosexual parents with children.

Despite dire warnings by San

Francisco Mayor Willie Brown that President Clinton would face **gay protests** if he came to town, little opposition greeted Clinton at his June 9 appearance at a \$50,000 fundraiser sponsored by Dianne Feinstein. Senator Milton Marks and Supervisors Leslie Katz and Susan Leal all pointedly skipped his press event before the fundraiser.

Gay Concord physician **Dr. Gary A. Parkison** and an accomplice were arrested for conspiracy to commit murder and murder-for-hire, after they allegedly paid an undercover Concord police officer to kill Parkison's former lover. Parkison was held on \$10 million bail in the Martinez Detention Center. He later gave an exclusive interview to the **B.A.R.** about the incident.

Architect **Mark Primeau** was named as director of the San Francisco Department of Public Works by Mayor Willie Brown.

The Fine Arts Museums, including the de Young Museum and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, became some of the first city-supported institutions to offer 100 percent **domestic partners coverage** to its workers.

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco **Gay Community Center** held a public meeting on June 15 to elect officers and give a status report on the purchase agreement for a Market Street site located between Octavia and Laguna Streets. The site housed a Libertarian bookstore and a gay sex club.

Long-time gay community figure and restaurateur **Lennie Mollet** died after emergency surgery at age 76. Mollet was well-known for two pioneering lesbian and gay bars and restaurants — Off the Levee, a popular San Francisco waterfront-area gay bar and eatery that operated during the 1950s, and his popular South of Market establishment, originally called the 527 Club and later known as Chez Mollet.

The United States Supreme Court tossed out Cincinnati's law against so-called "**special protections**" for lesbians and gays — similar to Colorado's Amendment 2 — and ordered a rehearing on the issue.

An unprecedented Washington, D.C. coalition of AIDS activists, patient advocates, and scientists denounced the animal rights movement, including **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**, for impeding life-saving research.

The 27th annual Freedom Day Parade — California's oldest and largest — drew hundreds of thousands of revelers Sunday, June 30. The event was marred by politicians anxious to be close to the start of the parade, who cut in front of people with AIDS and left PWA groups sweltering in the sun.

An estimated 200,000 **condoms** were distributed in gay bars and sex venues during Pride festivities after the Health Department's AIDS pre-parade outreach efforts were critically scrutinized. The widescale distribution collapsed again immediately after the weekend.

Capping a year of controversy, the **Alameda City Council** adopted a resolution supporting a Mayor's proclamation that saluted the city's lesbian and gay community. A similar effort a year earlier was nixed by Christian fundamentalists who caught activists off-guard.

Douglass Elementary School in the Castro became **The Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy** on June 24 after approval of the name change by the San Francis-

co Board of Education.

July

AIDS experts from around the world attended the **XI International AIDS Conference in Vancouver**. Whether protease inhibitors were a important medical breakthrough or hype was a prime topic of discussion. Needle exchange, vaccine trials, and women's AIDS issues were also big topics.

Oakland, California began providing **domestic partners registration** and benefits for city workers.

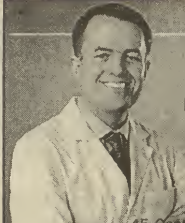
Longtime lesbian activist and Bay Area Lawyers For Individual Freedom board member **Kate Kendall** became executive director of the National Center For Lesbian Rights.

In July, **Shanti Project** announced it had won \$750,000 in damages from its former accounting firm. The firm failed to catch management errors and practices that led to the cancellation of the group's \$2.5 million in housing contracts — and the departures of director Eric Rofes and deputy director Melinda Paras. Mayor Brown said the money would eventually wind up back at Shanti through city funding.


Longtime openly-gay community activist **Lawrence Wong** was named president of the San Francisco Community College Board of Trustees, which oversees the operations of the multi-campus SF Community College.

Longtime African American gay activist and leader **Byron McQuarters** was appointed as head of the City's Sunshine Task Force, which supervises the city's open government act.

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1996 in review

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The 5th International Transgender Law Conference was held in Houston, Texas. More than 35 transgendered attorneys and supporters attended.

More than 400 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered activists from around the world gathered in San Francisco for "Young, Loud and Proud" - the first international queer youth conference.

Darryl Geyer, a 19-year-old Ohioan police described as a drifter, was held without bail in the Bryant Street Hall of Justice on murder, arson, and auto theft charges. Geyer was charged in connection with a deadly fire at 1101 Bush Street on June 11. A 75-year-old woman had jumped to her death while trying to escape the blaze.

Observant members of the Cannabis Buyers Club discovered that they were being videotaped through the window-blind of a room in a building diagonal to the club's operations. The building was owned by the Bank of America. CBC founder Dennis Person called the incident a political act to derail the campaign for the legalization of medical marijuana.

Former Democratic Party head and gay candidate for Municipal Court Judge Matthew Rothschild denied that he campaigned from his desk at the City Attorney's office. He also denied he tried to dupe elderly voters into thinking he was heterosexual, after police officer and attorney Leeanna Dawydiak told the Bay Area Reporter that Rothschild asked her to appear at his side at several political events. She said the candidate suggested older voters might think the police officer was his wife.

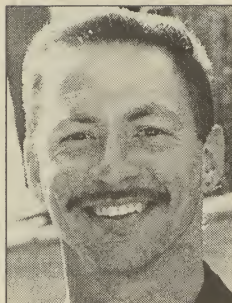
Two gay men with San Francisco links were among the 230 people who died aboard TWA Flight 800 when it exploded shortly after take-off on July 17. Former St. Francis Lutheran Church organist and chorister David Hogan was returning to his Paris home. Designer Ted Johnson also died. Two members of the Paris gay chorus also died in the explosion.

August

The California Attorney General's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement conducted a series of early morning raids on the Cannabis Buyers Club at 1444 Market Street, as well as the homes of CBC founder Dennis Peron and manager Beth Moore, a person with AIDS, August 4. More than 100 officers, carrying automatic weapons and wearing body armor and rubber gloves, took part in the raid. Gay San Francisco police officer Joe Bannon was the investigating SFPD officer who worked with state cops, without the knowledge of the San Francisco Police Commission or Chief of Police Fred Lau. The action was widely criticized.

Congressman Jim Kolbe, R-Arizona, was forced out of the closet by activists who had threatened to out him and other members of Congress. Kolbe supported the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act and does not believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry. Kolbe unconvincedly tied the issue to "states' rights."

Three members of ACT UP/San Francisco seized Davies Hospital Emergency Room after being denied access to a meeting room at the site. The use of the meeting space had been canceled



Gay SFPD officer Joseph Bannon worked with state cops on the CBC raid in August.

because of the group's escalating public confrontations with AIDS officials and other activists.

New Leaf, an agency formed when Operation Concern and 18th Street Services merged, was hit by a labor grievance for scaling back benefits to workers and arbitrarily laying off some workers. Service Employee International Union Local 790 filed a grievance over the labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board.

University of California Medical Center was named the country's best AIDS care center, and San Francisco General Hospital was listed among the top ten hospitals providing AIDS care in the country, according to a survey of U.S. News and World Report.

Michael C. Botkin died of AIDS in San Francisco of AIDS. Botkin was one of the best columnists and profilers of life with AIDS in contemporary American journalism. His last column appeared in the August 15, 1996 issue of the Bay Area Reporter.

Gay San Francisco social justice activist and political consultant T.J. Anthony died of cancer at the age of 37.

Several thousands of gays and lesbians assembled en masse to protest at the Republican Convention in San Diego, California.

A former owner of the End Up, once a popular SF gay bar, shot himself in the head after a nine-hour standoff with police in Millbrae. 51-year-old Douglas Whitmore had been sought for allegedly shooting Carl Hanken in the arm during an argument over the estate of Hanken's late brother.

Two police captains were cleared of charges in connection with the raid of a 1995 New Year's private AIDS fundraiser. Six San Francisco officers had been charged with misconduct ranging from anti-gay slurs to brutality and the false arrest of gay men and others in the incident.

The Board of Supervisors earmarked \$1.2 million in funds to purchase a Market Street property for a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center.

The Board of Supervisors also declined to declare a state of medical emergency to distribute medicinal marijuana to people in need. The Board said it lacked the authority for the move because medical marijuana issues did not meet the narrow legal criteria to allow such a declaration. In a clever publicity stunt, MCC pastor Jim Mitulski passed out pot to a handful of AIDS patients in the church's sanctuary, both to show the need and to point out gay support for the distribution efforts.

A tie vote that would have passed a California measure refusing to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states failed when Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, as head of

1996 IN REVIEW

the Senate, broke the tie and voted to defeat the measure.

Longtime San Francisco queer activist, inveterate Grateful Dead head, and Queer Nation co-founder **Steve Mehall** died of HIV-related complications at the age of 37.

Lesbian mother **Gaeta Bell** was named to the city's open space committee by Supervisor Susan Leal. Bell is a long-time naturalist who works for the East Bay Regional Parks District.

Openly gay Congressional candidate from Long Beach, California **Rick Zbur** addressed the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on August 28.

Robert Acremant confessed to killing Medford, Oregon lesbians Roxanne Ellis, 53 and Michelle Abdul, 42. Acremant initially claimed to have killed the pair in a botched attempted robbery, but later said he killed them because childhood sexual abuse left him with a "deep hatred of fags." Acremant claimed to have been subjected to incest, rape, bestiality, and battery from the age of five to 14, when he began taking LSD daily.

September

District Attorney Terence Halinan said that pot use was given the city's lowest police enforcement priority, but **pot sales** were not — after gay man and CBC member Craig Canada was arrested for selling pot in San Francisco's Civic Center. Canada faces a state prison sentence if convicted.

Governor Pete Wilson launched an effort to force the state Department of Social Services to abolish **adoptions** by unmarried couples or single people. Despite Wilson's efforts, state

judges still have discretion in such matters and routinely award custody to gays and lesbians and single men and women who wish to become adoptive parents.

California began requiring that twice-convicted male pedophiles who commit sex crimes against children under 13 receive **chemical castration**.

Gay prison AIDS physicians **Dr. German V. Maisonet** died at the age of 48. A founding member of the national Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, Maisonet was former head of the State Department of Correction's primary HIV treatment site at Vacaville's California Medical Facility, and a chief inspector of prisons for the American Medical Association.

The United States Senate voted to pass the anti-gay marriage **Defense of Marriage Act** by a 85-14 vote — and defeated the proposed federal gay **Employment Non-Discrimination Act** civil rights protections by 49-50.

Openly gay judicial candidate **Matthew Rothschild** was the subject of controversy after an exclusive B.A.R. report detailing his 1990 bankruptcy. Rothschild included \$23,000 in student loans in the debt reorganization plan. The rest of the credit card and loan debt was spent caring for James Dionisio, a LA attorney who later died with AIDS, according to his campaign manager.

Concern about the use of **methamphetamines** in the gay community prompted the Stop AIDS Project to sponsor two community meetings to talk about crystal use and find ways to address the endemic problem.

Disciplinary proceedings against four police officers charged with misconduct during

the illegal raid of a private 1995 New Year's South of Market Street AIDS fundraiser began at the Hall of Justice.

Dean Goodwin, lesbian and gay liaison to Mayor Willie Brown, informed the 33 members of the **Mayor's s HIV Planning Council** that Brown required them to reapply for their posts.

Marianna Balquiedra, formerly head of the Remedios AIDS Task Force in the Philippines, became the new head of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS. Balquiedra is a transgendered Filipina.

A landmark case requiring the state of **Hawaii** to provide a compelling reason to deny gay couples the right to marry went to a state Circuit Court. The court will rehear the case following a 1993 Hawaii Supreme Court ruling reinstating a lawsuit filed by three same-sex couples denied marriage licenses.

An off-duty uniformed **Muni bus driver** was charged with felony assault in a July attack against a gay man riding the 4 Sutter bus line. The gay man had been kissed on the cheek by his boyfriend who was getting off the bus. Sonny Vukic was slugged and assaulted by 43-year-old Wardy Joubert, who made anti-gay comments before he attacked Vukic. Despite the pleas of Muni passengers, the on-duty bus driver ignored the incident and failed to call police or intervene.

An openly gay butcher filed a complaint against **Bryan's Quality Meats**, claiming he was sexually battered by another butcher who exposed his penis to the man. Dwight Rogge claimed he was also subjected to repeated anti-gay comments and death threats from co-workers while on

the job.

The city's Human Rights Commission urged the city health administration to explore providing insurance coverage funds for eligible transgender city workers' **sexual reassignment surgery**.

October

Melinda Paras announced at the end of September that she would step down as head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force after two years at the helm of the 35,000-member organization. Paras said she would return to San Francisco with her lover Barbara Englis, who accepted a local job offer.

State Attorney General Dan Lungren asked a distributor and California newspapers to pull the popular **Doonesbury** comic strip for its portrayal of the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club. The cartoon lampooned Lungren's enforcement activities against the club and portrayed the need for medical marijuana in a series of strips.

Activists were infuriated by the antics of groups like PHARMA, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of American, and non-profit groups, including the Northwest AIDS Foundation and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, over efforts "to loot" Medicaid and the federal **AIDS Drug Assistance Program**. PHARMA opposed price caps, and non-profit AIDS groups demanded half of \$100 million set aside specifically for ADAP programs.

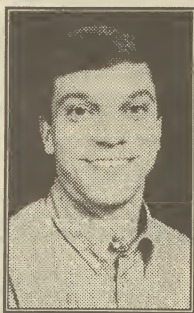
The San Francisco Board of Supervisors created a firestorm of criticism by announcing it would consider legislation to regulate commercial **sex clubs**. Mayor Willie Brown announced that he believed public hearings should first be held about the issue, and indicated he did not support the measure. The legislation by Supervisor Tom Ammiano was effectively stalled in the uproar.

Two officers were exonerated, but two police sergeants were disciplined for their roles in the 1995 raid of that private South of Market AIDS fundraiser. **Sergeant John Haggett** was ordered fired — but the punishment was held in abeyance for three years pending a six-month suspension, counseling, and a clean disciplinary record. Haggett was found guilty of three false arrests, lying on a police report, and unnecessary force against gay men he arrested during the incident. **Sergeant Steve Bosshard** was convicted of a sexual orientation slur for making a comment about a cross-dressed man's buttocks, after he lifted the man's skirt while putting him into the back of a police van during the raid. Complainants and activists expressed disappointment in the verdicts, and were critical of lesbian Police Commissioner Pat Norman for her role in the decision. The Office of Citizen Complaints said the discipline decisions were fair, given the evidence.

An AIDS activist with ACT

page 24 ►

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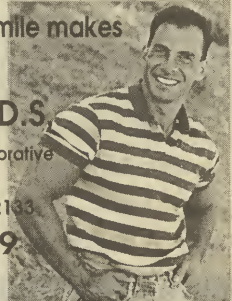


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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Sheila Jones Feb. 15, 1958 – Dec. 19, 1996

Sheila Jones died peacefully on December 19. She was a shining light for many of us, full of love, laughter and spirit. Sheila was born and raised in San Francisco. She has a very large family, including her mother, Margaret



Williams; her father, James Jones; her daughter, Star Bozeman; sisters, Barbara Harris, Elizabeth Jones and Wanda Jones; her nephew, Bobby; and aunts, Nana Lee Jackson and Charletta Starks.

Sheila worked very hard to combat a lifelong struggle with addiction, plus her newer battle with AIDS. She was a role model for many people, always listening to her heart and offering hope to others.

Among her extended family of support over the past five years are many staff and clients of Ward 93, Salvation Army CARE Detox, Canon Kip, Rafiki, Restoration House, Tom Smith, Walden CARE, Lutheran Social Services, Continuum, ASAP and VNH. She was loved and well cared for by Laura Strauss and the staff of Ward 86, as well as the inpatient team of SF General AIDS Services. Coming Home provided invaluable comfort and support to her during her final two months.

With gratitude for having known Sheila and sorrow for this tremendous loss, we'll miss you!

Chuck Sipler December 17, 1996



Chuck Sipler, 55, who loved living in San Francisco and the Bay Area for more than 10 years and worked in financial marketing, died December 17 in Tulsa, where he had moved in 1992. His long illness could not, however, really get the best of him; he was a formidable adversary who would not allow it to do so.

Chuck is survived by his devoted partner of several years, Jerry Lawrence, who gave him all the support anyone could ever wish for (which he so richly deserved), and by many other loyal friends from Oklahoma to California and beyond.

Chuck had true sweetness, gentleness and generosity of spirit, but also the toughest integrity and indomitable strength of character. That loving and strong combination inspired people to be the best they could be – and nothing will change there; those of us who loved and admired him will go on being inspired for having known him.

Drug company expert gives positive data on lymphatic HIV

by Sandy Cala

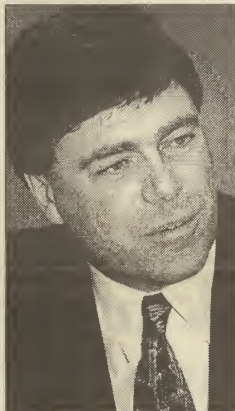
Roger Mills, M.D., the medical director of Abbott Laboratories Antiviral Venture, and Marcus A. Conant, M.D., co-founder of the largest private HIV clinic in the United States, provided a community forum Monday, December 16, to discuss HIV in the Lymphatic System. The forum at the Grand Hyatt was Mills's first in the United States after his lecture in Birmingham, England at the 3rd International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection.

Mills began the forum by stressing the importance of looking beyond blood tests and into different areas of body tissue for HIV, particularly lymph nodes cells that are known to harbor the virus even when it is undetectable in the bloodstream. As in Birmingham, he presented a report of 33 patients who were administered three drugs they had never taken before – AZT, 3TC, and Abbott's protease inhibitor Norvir (ritonavir). Fifteen of the 25 patients who completed six months of the study showed no detectable virus in their blood; six of those 15 patients still had their tonsils, which were tested before and after the trial.

The results were promising, showing undetectable viral load in all six subjects' tonsil tissue.

Mills then observed, "But if a patient gets to zero amounts of HIV load in the body, new questions arise – do you stop treatment altogether?"

Unfortunately, treatment questions such as that must remain unanswered for now, since much of the data on Norvir and other protease inhibitors are still



Dr. Roger Mills, medical director of Antiviral Ventures for Abbott Labs.

being collected. Most of the studies on the drugs, which work by blocking the enzyme the virus needs to process proteins and reproduce, have tracked patients for less than two years.

Even so, the effects of the new drugs have been highly lauded, and Conant stressed that "aggressive

combination therapy at the outset of HIV infection ... may offer the best hope for improved survival."

Activists gave out leaflets at the forum protesting Norvir's cost of some \$9,000 per year, which makes it the most expensive protease inhibitor on the market. Not only that, according to ACT UP/Golden Gate member Dean Knutson, it has more serious and toxic side effects than the other protease inhibitors.

"It's a second-rate drug for a first-rate price," he said.

ACT UP/Golden Gate demanded an immediate reduction of \$4,000 per year in Norvir's price, but did not disrupt the exchange of information at the forum. ACT UP/Golden Gate is not affiliated with the group ACT UP/San Francisco, which is known for its disruptive tactics.

Although only a few participants attended the relatively short forum, it was a significant step forward in educating the community about the ongoing study of protease inhibitors. In a time when it is hard to separate fact from hope, it is reassuring to get some solid answers, even if sometimes the answer is that it must remain unanswered – for now. ▼

Free viral load testing available to those in need

by Cynthia Laird

Emergency programs to offer free viral load testing nationwide to HIV patients without adequate insurance or fi-

nances have been established following six months of lengthy discussions between AIDS community activists, Emeryville-based Chiron Corporation, and New Jersey-based Roche Molecular Systems, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) announced Thursday, December 12.

"HIV viral load testing has become an essential component of HIV care," said Ron Baker, director of Treatment Education and Advocacy at SFAF, who is himself HIV-positive. "The results of these tests are critical for guiding treatment decisions, and because there is no real government funding for viral load tests, this emergency action became crucial for those without access to these diagnostics."

HIV viral load tests measure the amount of HIV RNA, the ge-

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AIDS vaccine research in disorder

by Bill Snow, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

According to a report released this month by the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), entitled "Industry Investment in HIV Vaccine Research," the private-sector search for an AIDS vaccine is grossly underfunded and a low industry priority. The report is based on interviews with top researchers at 23 biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

"Less than \$40 million of the \$135 million spent on HIV vaccine research worldwide each year comes from the private sector. The private sector, particularly the large companies, must take on a greater role in this effort," says report author and attorney David Gold. "By way of comparison, Hollywood spent more on making *Waterworld* than the whole world is spending on HIV vaccine research each year."

There are only five global vaccine manufacturers, and only two of these (Chiron and Pasteur-Merieux-Connaught) have broad-based HIV vaccine programs that are pursuing a number of approaches. A third, Merck & Co., has a substantial program that is currently focused on a single approach.

The remaining companies (SmithKline Beecham and Wyeth Lederle) have insignificant HIV vaccine programs. Several smaller biotech companies have single-approach programs that are not terribly secure.

AVAC's investigation examined the reasons for the low level of commitment to HIV vaccine development, given the enormous financial and human costs to the public of the continued spread of HIV.

Among the first community-based groups dedicated solely to the advancement of HIV vaccine research, AVAC was uniquely positioned to work with scientists from private industry, and was able to conduct confidential interviews with every company that

now has or once had an HIV vaccine research and development program. Collaboratively researched by AVAC's five member authors, including myself, the report details some unexpected findings.

The role of government

"Industry scientists repeatedly told us they wanted stronger, more vocal public leadership in this arena, and that this would help them to secure private financing," says UCSF AIDS Policy Specialist and report author Chris Collins. "We were surprised to learn that, in most cases, government is the engine that drives industry, and that industry research depends on government financing, government leadership, and government support."

The primary obstacle to investment identified in the report was the problematic state of the science. While most industry scientists were convinced that a vaccine for HIV was possible, they were not always certain of their own next scientific steps. In every case where a company downsized or eliminated its HIV vaccine program, scientific obstacles were the primary factor, leading AVAC members to call for increased scientific assistance and direction by government sponsored research.

Everyone we spoke to was convinced an HIV vaccine is possible, and that there will be a strong market for a vaccine, maybe even a multi-billion dollar one, and yet the profit motive has been unable to drive investment because of the scientific difficulty of the field. Publicly-funded research targeted to key scientific questions could reduce the level of scientific uncertainty and stimulate private sector investment.

Also noted as a significant impediment to vaccine development was the issue of product liability. "Lawyers and investors are hesitant to back HIV research without some kind of tort reform," said report author Sam Avrett. "Once again, it's a question of government taking a leadership role on the issue in order to stimulate pri-

vate industry and advance the public health."

Zero of 17 in testing

While 268 therapies for HIV and AIDS have entered clinical trials, only 17 potential vaccines have entered human studies, and none have yet been deemed to merit wide-scale testing.

Meanwhile, 10,000 people become infected with HIV every day—and 40 to 80,000 Americans will acquire HIV in the next year alone. Although powerful new AIDS treatments have become available in the United States, these drugs remain unavailable to the American uninsured and to the 90% of people with HIV who live in the developing world. Even an effective vaccine would fail to stem the epidemic in the absence of effective mechanisms for assuring global access.

In the last few weeks vaccines have received some much needed attention from government. Dr. David Baltimore, a Nobel prize winner, has accepted the assignment to lead a cross-NIH vaccine development oversight committee by the Office of AIDS Research; and the President's Commission on AIDS and the president himself have stated that a cure and a vaccine together are our highest priority.

The AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition was founded in December 1995 to advocate for the development of a safe, effective, and accessible HIV vaccine. It seeks to promote increased funding and investment in HIV vaccine re-

search by government agencies, private industry, and non-governmental organizations; to identify barriers to the development of a vaccine; and to increase public awareness about the need for a well-funded, coordinated HIV vaccine research program. It seeks to promote increased HIV vaccine advocacy efforts by community-based organizations and increased awareness about HIV vaccine development among AIDS-affected communities. It is committed to the principle that funds for HIV vaccine research are not to be taken from basic HIV research, drug development, or prevention efforts.

The AVAC report proposes five key steps that would lay the foundation for making significant advances in HIV vaccine research and development. They are: increased government funding for HIV vaccine research, targeted scientific research to stimulate in-

dustry investment, expanded commitment by large pharmaceutical companies, increased commitment by affected communities, and expanded public leadership. It emphasizes that two key principles are essential to ensuring an ethical, sustainable, and ultimately successful HIV vaccine research effort: maintaining aggressive research effort in HIV prevention and treatment, and addressing international access issues. AVAC will press for these recommendations in the months to come.

"The president and vice-president must make the development of an HIV vaccine a national priority," said report author Garance Franke-Ruta, "if we are to prevent AIDS from becoming the scourge of two centuries." ▼

You can order a copy of the AVAC report by sending \$9.50 to the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, 2215R Market Street #501, San Francisco, CA. 94114.



ACT UP

ACTION UPDATE

Calling for all unused medications

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Viral load testing

◀ page 20

netic material of HIV, in the circulating bloodstream of HIV-positive individuals. The test results reflect the clinical health of infected individuals and yield important information to help guide HIV treatment decisions.

The average cost to a patient for a single viral load test is about \$150. Physicians now recommend the tests with increasing frequency to their patients who are using protease inhibitor drugs, in order to evaluate the success or failure of the new medications.

SFAF joined with ACT UP/Golden Gate and led a national coalition of AIDS community groups in negotiating with Chiron and Roche, the two principal manufacturers of HIV viral load testing, to establish patient assistance programs for indigent HIV-positive individuals until adequate government funding can be secured.

Chiron produces the viral load test called branched DNA (bDNA) that is awaiting approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Roche Molecular Systems makes the polymerase chain reaction test (PCR),

currently licensed by the FDA.

Supported by funding from Chiron Corp., San Francisco is the first of ten major U.S. cities scheduled to implement the Chiron-sponsored free HIV viral load testing program. The company's patient assistance program will be implemented by the San Francisco Department of Public Health through San Francisco General Hospital and the city's neighborhood public health clinics.

Beginning January 2, SFAF will have a national trilingual hotline for free viral load test information that will be sponsored by Chiron. The phone number will be 1-888-HIV-LOAD.

The SFAF, a nonprofit AIDS service organization, provides direct services and housing to thousands of clients and mounts education and prevention campaigns designed to stop the continuing spread of HIV. The organization also advocates for treatment advances and humane HIV-related public policies. ▼

For information about accessing free viral load testing in San Francisco, call the SFAF at (415) 863-AIDS. Information is available in English, Spanish, and Filipino dialects.

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Gay blades

by Jim Provenzano

The Canadians, who invented it, it seems, pronounce it "hawkey." We call it hockey. As sports go, it's known to be not unviolent.

In my college days (oh, there he goes again, pining for his nubile lost youth), a member of the university hockey team frequently came by my room to borrow ties for the nights when they had games. Somehow I had achieved a reputation on our dorm floor for

my sartorial superiority. I think I got a reputation for something else, and the hockey player was flirting with me, but I never took him up on it. Count that as one that got away.

I did go to a few of his games, though, and very much enjoyed watching his graceful élan on the ice. Despite the immense bulk of the uniforms, a good hockey game, free of the usual violence, is a great time, and hockey players are not all toothless thugs who say "Eh?"

Hockey popped up as a source

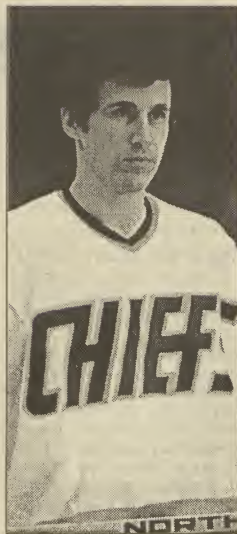
of great interest for homos when the 1977 film *Slapshot* came around, starring Paul Newman and Michael Ontkean, who deserves the award for best cinematic strip tease ever. Fey film reviewer Leonard Maltin calls it "a very satisfying wrap-up." I call it a very satisfying wrap-off, one that kept me up late nights when it played repeatedly on HBO during my junior year of high school. If you haven't seen this tour de force, rent it today. There's also a lot of other sexual material in the film, including the ramblings of a cute little Quebecois who announces, when gay rumors fly regarding Ontkean's character: "He can't be a homo. He's got a cock like a horse!"

Ontkean came to the role with years of hockey experience. He's also Canadian to boot. The study actor quit the sport, however, following an accident in which a close friend and teammate smashed his skull against a goalpost. Shades of Achilles and Patroclus.

And then there's Eric Lindstrom, whose beauty matches any centerfold. From the blond curls to the dimple, he's charmed his way into many fans' hearts and groins, and yet remains unmarried. Do you recall the "win a dinner date with Eric" contest a while back, in which the highest bidder was a man? What man, we wonder? And what was for dessert?

Skating to Amsterdam

Anyway, as much as I abhor violence (unless foisted against the



He's got a cock like a horse: Michael Ontkean in *Slapshot*.

likes of Fred Phelps), hockey, when played by the rules, is fun to watch and fun to play. It's like a frappuccino; iced soccer.

Two talented Team San Francisco members are hoping to start a coed team in preparation for Gay Games V in Amsterdam. Karen McAfee, who hails from Berkeley but lives in Oakland, and John Heiny, also of Oakland, are hoping to scrape up some ice jockeys to form the Bay Area's first queer hockey team.

"We both like skating and decided to start a team," said McAfee. Both are avid jocks. McAfee competed in golf (for Team Seattle) and women's flag football at previous Gay Games, and Heiny competes in karate, but since he has enough outlets for his martial arts talents outside queer events, he joined McAfee, a longtime friend, in her quest for queer ice capades.

Hockey events in 1998 will be held in the same arena with figure skating and ice dancing. For now, practices will probably take place in a spacious ice arena in Oakland, run by an ex-hockey player from Canada, who has offered to

give lessons. "But it depends on where the majority of people live," said McAfee. "If they're from all over, we'll find a medium ground. We're looking to see what response we get." Other leagues around the Bay could provide needed practice competition at pick-up games in Berkeley and Oakland.

McAfee decided not to play her usual game, flag football, for the upcoming Games since, due to what she calls her advancing years, she doesn't want to "play against big Nordic women."

Instead, she's chosen the less impactful sport of hockey, and in the recreational division, this holds true. Really. "One of the main things with rec division is most the time it's people who are very beginners," she said, "so we are open to total beginners." Which means there will be a minimum of violence, except perhaps in the arena of quips and fashion critiques.

The competition should be rather fierce, but not impolite. At the last Gay Games, Boston was quite talented, and Los Angeles took top honors. Seattle, New York and Vancouver also have teams. McAfee is honest about the competition. "Some of those people have been playing since high school," she said.

"We're going to have to have fundraisers for equipment," she added. There are few, if any, places to rent equipment, which can add up. Play It Again Sports is a good resource for used equipment.

Karen and John want to move their teammate search "into high gear" to get in the competition. The Amsterdam organizers are allowing a holdover from the restrictions of only ten teams registering, but McAfee and Heiny hope folks who are interested will get together very soon. So if you're at all interested, give either of them a call. ▼

Call Karen McAfee at (510) 893-1109 or John Heiny at (510) 527-2909.

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PAGE

Sex clubs

◀ page 1

resolved in order to keep the 209-person limit in place.

Power Exchange operator Mike Powers said he hoped that all remaining bureaucratic hurdles would be cleared and the club would be able to resume full operation by the end of the year. City officials also must resolve inconsistencies regarding the fire rating of the building—which has varied from one inspection report to the next—in order to set a permanent capacity limit.

The lower capacity limit was instituted at the request of Deputy City Attorney Jeanine Marie-Victoire, after a November 14 inspection revealed several safety violations. Prior to the December 5 hearing, Power Exchange operator Mike Powers and building owner Jimmy Jen corrected all the major outstanding violations.

Powers and Jen have charged that the city has practiced "selective enforcement" against the gay sex club, based on the fact that similar establishments that serve a primarily heterosexual clientele have not been similarly targeted.

Power Exchange supporters have made complaints regarding the behavior of De Cossio and Senior Building Inspector Rafael Torres-Gil, and have indicated that they plan to ask the Building Inspection Commission to investigate whether any inappropriate or illegal actions were taken in the course of the inspection process.

Edward Goehring, a member of the Coalition for Healthy Sex who was present at the December 20 inspection, stated that—in contrast to De Cossio and Torres-Gil—Wong and Lee have conducted themselves in an efficient and professional manner.

The recent inspection followed a December 13 meeting called by Dean Goodwin, Mayor Willie Brown's liaison to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community. Officials from the Fire Department and Department of Building Inspection reviewed the Power Exchange situation and discussed future policy regarding inspections of such businesses.

Representatives of the office of Supervisor Tom Ammiano—who initiated the proposed legislation to regulate the city's sex clubs—were not invited to attend the meeting. ▼

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Burmese abuse of PWAs leads to problems at SF Airport

by Dennis Conkin

Local AIDS, human rights, and environmental activists are critical of openly gay San Francisco Airport executive director John Martin for recommending that the Airport Commission award a \$137 million contract to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of America over the recommendations of the San Francisco Human

Rights Commission.

The HRC has urged the Airport not to accept the firm's bid to construct a peoplemover from the central terminal complex to a new rental car area, because of Mitsubishi's business ties with the military dictatorship of Burma.

Activists point out that in 1992, the Burmese government executed more than 25 HIV-positive Burmese women by cyanide injection. The women — former

prostitutes in the foreign sex trade business in Thailand — were forcibly repatriated, then killed.

The country's human rights problems have escalated over the last two decades. Since 1990, when the ruling party lost the election and placed opposition party leader and Nobel Laureate Aung Kyi under house arrest, thousands of political dissidents have been arrested, with reports of executions, torture, and other

abuses of activists, sex trade workers, and people with HIV/AIDS.

The country has very stringent anti-gay policies — including banishment to a penal colony for the crime of sodomy between men, according to John Newsome, a spokesperson for the International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission.

Airport spokesman Ron Wilson said Airport executives are satisfied the American Mitsubishi company is not doing business in Burma, even though MHIA is linked to the giant Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan and shares the same logo, stock, and some members of the board of directors.

"Right. I guess they believe in the Easter Bunny, too," said Supervisor Tom Ammiano. "They should be ashamed."

He said the Airport Commission's recommendation was "especially appalling" because of the mistreatment of people with HIV in Burma.

Ordinance unanimously passed

In April, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed, and Mayor Willie Brown signed, a city ordinance forbidding city agencies from doing business with companies that support the Burmese/Myanmar military regime because of longstanding human rights abuses.

Supervisors passed a similar ordinance about South Africa in the late 1980s — which South African President Nelson Mandela has publicly cited as a decisive factor in the overthrow of the apartheid regime.

Earlier this year, Motorola Corporation, which bid \$40 million to develop a supplemental emergency city communications systems for San Francisco, pulled out of Burma after pressure from human rights groups around the nation — but denied that the San Francisco contract had anything to do with the move.

Motorola has not yet been awarded the city contract for services.

Wilson, however, said that construction contracts are specifically exempted from the city's Myanmar ordinance — and also said the Airport would be in breach of its fiduciary obligations to the city if it did not accept the award, because MHIA was the lowest bidder for the project's first phase, scheduled for completion in 2001.

"We probably have the best record of any agency in the city in the area of human rights," Wilson said.

He also cited the Airport's extensive contracting with minority- and woman-owned business.

"We are a leader in the city and are abiding by the rules," he told the B.A.R. ▼

Saudi lashing for gay 'behavior' shocks Bay Area Asians, gays

by Rene M. Astudillo

Members of the Filipino gay and lesbian community in the Bay Area reacted sharply at the news that twenty-four Filipinos living in Saudi Arabia have been sentenced to receive 200 lashes after being caught engaging in "homosexual behavior." They have received 50 lashes thus far, and will get the rest in three more sessions.

Filipinas Magazine, a Filipino-American publication distributed in the U.S., reported that Saudi authorities arrested the Filipinos for homosexual behavior, a catch-all phrase that includes cross-dressing and wearing make-up. None of the workers were caught actually engaging in sexual intercourse, which would have elicited a stronger punishment.

Thousands of Filipinos are living in Saudi Arabia as overseas contract workers. Homosexual behavior is banned in Saudi Arabia, which follows strict Islamic laws.

Manny Dacalanio coordinates a weekly social group, *Tambayan*, for Filipino gay and bisexual men in San Francisco. He says that al-

though people need to be sensitive to and respect the culture and religion of countries other than their own, he thinks that the punishment for the 24 Filipinos is too cruel. "What more if they were caught engaging in sexual intercourse? They could potentially be put to death!"

Luella Penserga of Oakland, coordinator of a women's health program at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum in San Francisco, recalls the outrage a few years ago over an American teenager's sentencing of caning for a misdemeanor committed in Singapore. "Here we are talking about 24 individuals and 200 lashes," Penserga said. Like many Filipino gays and lesbians in the Bay Area, Penserga is eager to know what the Philippine government or its embassy in Saudi Arabia has done to intervene on behalf of these overseas workers.

Epee Rafanan, director of the Trilingual AIDS Hotline of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, wonders if the same kind of punishment would be given if it were Saudi citizens who had violated the laws on homosexuality. At the

same time, Rafanan thinks that the Philippine government should conduct an appropriate information campaign among Filipinos leaving for contract work in Saudi Arabia so they do not inadvertently violate laws they are not even aware of.

Many others interviewed by the B.A.R. believe that regardless of specific laws that are in place in Saudi Arabia, the kind of harsh punishment given to the 24 Filipinos is a human rights issue that the universal gay and lesbian community should protest and always be vigilant about. ▼

Homophobic Israeli prez 'likes it when men are men'

United Press International

Israeli President Ezer Weizman says the leader will ignore calls for his resignation following remarks he made against gays, according to a spokesperson.

Meretz Party member Naomi Hazan is calling on Weizman to step down after he called homosexuality a social aberration that requires government legislation. Community activists have demanded Weizman deliver a public apology for the remarks.

The president told Israeli students Friday that he "likes it when a man wants to be a man," and said he views homosexuals "in a negative light, and the way to deal with them must be determined by law."

Arieh Schumer, head of the president's office, tells Israel Radio the resignation issue "is not serious," and says the president had agreed to meet with representatives of Israel's gay and lesbian community to allay hostilities sparked by his comments.

According to Menahem Shizaf,

a former high school counselor, the president should not discount what affect his remarks can have. Shizaf tells Israel Radio that one-third of Israeli teenagers who commit suicide do so because of confusion with their sexual identity.

The chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee has backed Weizman in the incident, telling the Ma'ariv newspaper, "Hats off to Weizman. ... He says what others are thinking but dare not say."

Meanwhile, in America, Senator Jesse Helms, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Benjamin Gilman, chair of the House International Relations Committee, have written a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make clear they do not agree with President Clinton's new strategy of criticizing Israel for a breakdown in the Middle East peace process.

They say, "there are voices who insist it is incumbent upon the State of Israel to make all the sacrifices for peace. Do not count us among such people." ▼

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1996 in review

◀ page 19

UP/SF who dumped pungent 14-week old **kitty litter** on San Francisco AIDS Foundation Director Pat Christen said he was "unrepentant" about the assault. Ronnie Burk, who disrupted a SFAF-sponsored voter's forum with several other AIDS activists October 17, was cited on assault charges. Christen said the agency would press charges against Burk for the "unacceptable violence."

The athletic field at Eureka Valley Recreation Center was renamed the **Rikki Streicher Athletic Field** in honor of the late Rikki Streicher, a longtime lesbian community leader and businesswoman who died of cancer in 1994.

Mario Mondelli testified in open court about the bizarre 1994 camping ax attack against him by Dr. Dean Freeman, who was then a psychiatrist at San Francisco General Hospital. Freeman was charged with attempted murder for stabbing Mondelli more than 20 times. Mondelli testified Freeman, in his capacity as Mondelli's psychiatrist, had initiated a sexual relationship, prescribed and shared amphetamine-like drugs with the actor, and then tried to kill him over concerns that his criminal activity would be exposed. Freeman was ordered to stand trial on the charges.

Vandals defaced photographs on display at City Hall taken by Michael Johnstone, a gay artist with AIDS, as part of a series of his partner in drag.

The Board of Supervisors passed a landmark measure re-

quiring city contractors to provide their workers **domestic partners benefits** as a requirement of doing business with San Francisco.

November

Incumbent President **Bill Clinton** became the first Democratic president since Franklin Roosevelt to be reelected to the White House on November 5. Clinton took 379 electoral votes to Republican nominee Bob Dole's 150.

Plans to tape *The Wheel of Fortune* at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts came under fire because of show host **Pat Sajak's** connections to the right-wing Claremont Institute.

Right-wing Republican Congressman **Robert Dornan** was defeated for election by conservative Democrat Loretta Sanchez, ending his 20-year career. Anti-gay Dornan was best known for blasting liberals and gays before the House television cameras.

Two **gay bashers** received a year in County Jail from Judge Julie Teng for their 1995 attack on a gay man. A third man failed to show at trial and was the subject of a bench warrant. Teng suspended the sentences to five and six months, ordered an apology printed in the gay press to the victim and the gay community, and then - over prosecutor's objections - gave the convicted criminals a week to get their affairs in order. Only one of the men showed up to serve the misdemeanor sentence, and a warrant was issued for Jonathan Bell, 22.

Lonny Dean Lewis, the gay San Francisco man wanted on a

warrant related to a 213-count indictment for posing as a psychiatrist and duping scores of patients, was apprehended in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, where he faced deportation on the charges.

An African-American man with AIDS-related dementia was found dead on Cesar Chavez Blvd. near Highway 101 after walking out of San Francisco General Hospital. **Clifford Trusty**, 41, had apparently been struck by a hit-and-run driver.

John Manzón-Santos was named the head of the merged Living Well/Asian AIDS Project.

December

World AIDS Day was marked by a variety of services, political actions and other forms of commemoration around the globe.

State Assemblywoman **Sheila Kuehl** made history on December 2 when she was named speaker pro tem by newly-elected Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante, D-Fresno, becoming both the first woman and the first openly gay person to serve in the number-two leadership post.

Gay activists around the country celebrated a Hawaii court's December 3 decision that cleared the way for **same-sex marriage** in that state. Fifth Circuit Judge Kevin Change ruled that the state failed to show a compelling reason why gays and lesbians could not marry. Chang blocked gay marriages pending appeal of his ruling.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation Director **Pat Christen** was named as one of several possible appointments to the post of Clinton Administration "AIDS Czar,"

following the resignation of Patsy Fleming from the post. African-American activist Phil Willson, co-founder of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, was also in the running for the post, as was District of Columbia Whitman-Walker Clinic head Michael Isbell.

Stop AIDS Project began distribution of 1,000 **Reality internal condoms** as part of a survey about how men feel about the use of the device for anal intercourse.

Berkeley gay man **Kriss Worthington** won a seat on the Berkeley City Council.

The **San Francisco Police Commission** approved a \$150,000 tentative settlement of claims stemming from the police raid of the New Year's 1995 private South of Market AIDS fundraiser. In addition to the cash award, the settlement also requires reforms in police training and oversight, according to the plaintiff's attorney Nancy Clarence.

A recent policy change by the San Francisco Bay Area **Boy Scout Council** to allow gay youth as members - and gay adults as leaders - as long as they don't "engage in homosexual conduct or advocacy" was criticized by gay activists as a Boy Scout ploy to receive United Way funds. The group had been barred from such grants because of its "no gays allowed" policies. Supervisor Tom Ammann and others criticized the council for enacting a Boy Scout version of anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policies.

A 40-page **"AIDS Strategy"** released by the White House Office of AIDS Policy was widely

criticized by AIDS experts and activists as a meaningless bureaucratic policy report on AIDS.

A savage anti-gay beating and **pit bull attack** on two gay men at Church and Market could cost three assailants ten years each in prison if convicted on the charges. The men allegedly knocked down a parked motorcycle, threatened its gay owner, and then picked out a gay man in a gathering crowd, whom they attacked, beat without mercy, and forced the dog to attack. When the motorcycle's owner intervened, he was severely bitten by the animal. The defendants remained in jail on \$100,000 and \$150,000 bail. The pit bull was impounded.

A restraining order was issued banning two **ACT UP/SF** activists from entering SF AIDS Foundation offices or events, and ordering them to remain 150 feet away from AIDS Foundation staffers at public events. The orders were issued after escalating incidents involving activists Michael Bellefountaine and Ronnie Burk.

The uniformed but off-duty **Muni bus driver** who was charged in July with viciously attacking a gay passenger was removed from driving a bus and given a desk job after the B.A.R. learned that Wardy Joubert was still driving buses despite the felony charges lodged against him.

San Francisco Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** was named as head of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee by Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante. The appointment made Migden the second most powerful person in the California Assembly. ▼

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209648

The following person(s) are doing business as CHAT HOUSE, 139 Eighth St., San Francisco, CA 94103: Catherine Fields, 877 Guerrero St., San Francisco, CA 94110; Maureen McGarry, 241 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Catherine Fields. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 27, 1996. Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209512

The following person(s) are doing business as JUDNICK, 2888 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134; HGE & Beverage Services LLC (CA), 2 Chester, Daly City, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. Signed Horace Diamond. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 20, 1996. Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209153

The following person(s) are doing business as ERIN TRUCKING, 839 Santiago St., San Francisco, CA 94116: John Thomas Kehoe, 839 Santiago St., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 6, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Kehoe. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 06, 1996. Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209886

The following person(s) are doing business as SAN FRANCISCO BICYCLE RENTALS, 791 Atherton Ave, Novato, CA 94945; Stewart MacGregor Kerr, 791 Atherton Ave, Novato, CA 94945; Conrad Hanns, 791 Atherton Ave, Novato, CA 94945. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Stewart M Kerr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 5, 1996. Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209730

The following person(s) are doing business as JOHN'S ORGANICS, 2822 Lyon St., San Francisco, CA 94123: John Van-Sicklen Maeck II, 2822 Lyon St., San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of December 12, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Van-Sicklen Maeck II. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 02, 1996. Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209835

The following person(s) are doing business as ACE PRINTING & GRAPHICS, 987 Haight St., Suite 6, San Francisco, CA 94117; Peter Christopher Kirsch, 987 Haight St., Suite 6, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of December 1, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Peter Kirsch. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 6, 1996. Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209698

The following person(s) are doing business as I. A.R. MARTIN ENT. 2. A.R.M. SALES, 775 Post St., Ste #100, San Francisco, CA 94109; Arnold R. Martin, 775 Post St., Ste #100, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Arnold R. Martin. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 02, 1996. Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209713

The following person(s) are doing business as VIBRANTLY YOURS, 166 Geary St., #200, San Francisco, CA 94108; Vera Walker, 16298 Foothill Blvd. #1, San Leandro, CA 94578. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of December 4, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Vera Walker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 02, 1996. Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209934

The following person(s) are doing business as RAND COMMUNICATIONS, 2544 Huntington Drive, Macon, Georgia 31206; Bob P. Johnson, 2544 Huntington Drive, Macon, GA 31206. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed B.P. Johnson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 12, 1996. Dec. 19, 26, Jan. 2, 9, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 209929

The following person(s) are doing business as PARKER HOUSE, THE, 520 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114; William J. Boedicker, 520 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 30, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed William J Boedicker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 12, 1996. Dec. 19, 26, Jan. 2, 9, 1996.

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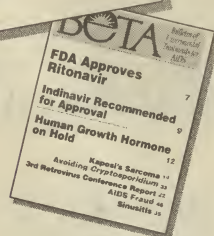
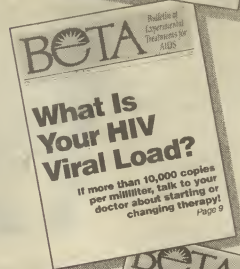
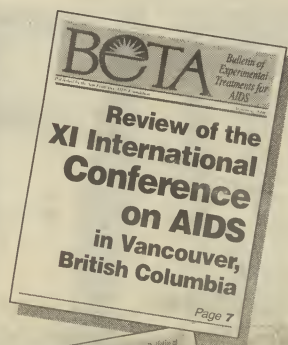
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'Bastard Out of Carolina', 'Vertigo' were among the few films worth seeing in an otherwise cinematically dreary 1996.
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Adrian Roberts is less than enthusiastic about the year in music.
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Bartoli is a perfect Despina in Met broadcast of 'Cosi fan tutte'.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 52 • 26 December 1996



Madonna stars as Eva Peron in *Evita*.

Bill Kaye

Triumph of the will

Alan Parker delivers Madonna's MTV 'Evita'

by Robert Julian

The experience of watching *Evita* is a little bit like being run over by a freight train. Andrew Lloyd Webber's original score has been tweaked, amplified, and Dolbied into the stratosphere, and the resulting film makes its mark by sheer force of personality—a phenomenon that is strangely appropriate, given the subject matter and the presence of Madonna in the title role. *Evita* isn't a great motion picture, but it won't be ignored either.

Evita, the movie, springs from the 1978 Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice Broadway musical of the same name. It is part of the early Webber musical oeuvre that includes relatively forgettable works like *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Starlight Express* (which

starred actors on roller skates pretending to be boxcars). The primary characteristic of these early Webber musicals was bombast—sort of Sondheim with a sledgehammer. Like Sondheim, Webber replaces traditional dialogue with recitative; every word that comes from the characters' mouths is sung, not spoken. In bringing *Evita* to the screen, director Alan Parker wisely retains this operatic convention. With *Evita*'s prerecorded soundtrack, Madonna ends up lip-synching everything, just as she has done successfully in her MTV videos of the last decade. Perhaps more than anything else, this crucial decision results in Madonna's qualified success in the title role. She has never proven herself reliable at delivering convincing spoken dialogue, but this is not required in *Evita*.

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Pithy Galore

It must have finally dawned on **Mel Gibson** that there's money to be made in them thar filthy homosexuals. Why else would one of Hollywood's biggest homophobes be sponsoring a seminar for queers on the set of his new film? That's right, in early January of '97, Gibson, the man who once said he had no use for homosexuals, will invite 10 enterprising young queer filmmakers to join them on the set of *Conspiracy* to see how it all happens in La La Land.

Gibson's change of heart was

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apparently brought about by a meeting last May between the actor and members of GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), who wanted to have a heart-to-heart chat with the actor about his history of unkind comments about queers. The meeting and ensuing discussions resulted in the creation of what GLAAD calls a "groundbreaking seminar." This is all very nice, but for those of us who can't help being cynical in a cynical age, this *rapprochement* sounds more political than real. We do hope one of the honored homosexuals attending this auspicious confab brings along a video camera, as we want to see for ourselves if Gibson: 1) is actually there that day; 2) actually interacts with the queers; 3) says anything intelligent; 4) wears rubber gloves.

Vicious queen

Have you seen *The English Patient*? Weren't you just swept away by **Ralph Fiennes'** portrayal of that richly compassionate, complicated character, **Count Laszlo Almásy**? **Michael Ondaatje**, who wrote the book that inspired the film, has said that he wanted to



Ralph Fiennes in Anthony Minghella's *The English Patient*.

create a character who was "transfixed by the desert." The combination of Fiennes' dark-eyed beauty and the omnipotent silence of the desert certainly does prove bewitching. However, a recent *New York Times* piece suggests that the real Count Almásy wasn't so much complicated as he was amoral, if not downright treacherous. In addition to doing espionage for the Germans during World War II, Almásy, who was born in eastern Austria but educated in England, spied for the Soviet Union, was a confirmed "monarchist who wanted to see the return of the Hapsburgs to the throne," offered his services to Axis-power Italy, and plotted to build a museum in Egypt that would act as a cover for German spies. Not a pretty picture, this.

Ondaatje's biggest departure from the truth, however, was in making Almásy a heterosexual. According to the *Times*, Almásy was a homosexual who during World War II wrote "80 passionate letters to a young German Army officer" he was desperately trying to save from the Russian front. Truth isn't so much stranger than fiction as it is sometimes merely depressing.

Fagronics

Recently while we were rolling along on the 24 Divisadero, our hands firmly clenched around that can of Mace, we overheard a gaggle of goateed, bald-headed queens chatting away in what struck us as a very distinctive form of communication. This unusual parlance was characterized by a distinct absence of the male pronoun (everyone was "she this" and "she that"); sentences consistently began with the word "girl"; and everybody seemed to be named **Mary**. Suddenly it dawned on us that this must be that special dialect that everyone is talking about, the idiom of the San Francisco homosexual, Fagronics. Now, just imagine if this colorful *lingua* were to gain the kind of constituency that Ebonics is currently enjoying? Suddenly young would-be queens would be required to: know how to spell *martini* in the first grade; recite whole monologues from *All About Eve*; distinguish quickly between pre- and post-crash **Monty**; and develop complex acrostics using international expressions for the word queen.

Image make-over

The Disney organization seems to be taking over the work of the Salvation Army. It was Buena Vista Pictures, a Disney company, that put **Bette Midler** back on her feet as an actress in the '80s when it gave her a three-picture deal and cast her in **Paul Mazursky's** *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*. Now Hollywood Pictures, another Disney-owned company, has taken the naked **Madonna** from the pages of her *Sex* book and cast her as the lead in *Evita*. That Midler and Madonna, arguably the premiere vulgarities of their respective generations,

should be made honest women by Disney is a concept that boggles the mind. And Disney even provides health benefits for same-sex partners. Move over **Mother Theresa**, your politically correct replacement has been found!

Pasteurized Milk

Anyone who still pines for a recording of that drivelous *Harvey Milk* opera should pick up the cast album of a musical called *The Harvey Milk Show*, produced by the Atlanta-based Actor's Express during last year's Olympics. **THMS's** wit, charm, and polish utterly eclipse the interminable **Michael Korie/Stewart Wallace** opera that played the Orpheum last month. **Patrick Hutchinson's** music owes a

points — none of which were much in evidence in the opera. Any one song from *The Harvey Milk Show* illuminates more about Milk's political genius, style, and heart than the whole damn SFO production. Get it. Multi-storied theater know-it-all **Honorio von Holstein** hasn't been so excited about anything since the internal condom.

Ice princess melts

A recent article in the *New York Times* suggested that films about lesbians have become such a routine part of the film landscape that audiences are no longer stunned to death by the sight of two women making out and now want to see them in ever more exciting situations.

Though she is not a lesbian, **Catherine Deneuve** is certainly doing her part to keep the salt and pepper in her lesbianic turns. Anybody who loved her in 1983's *The Hunger*, in which she made out with **Susan Sarandon**, won't want to miss her next film, *Les Voleurs*, in which France's "ice princess" plays a whiskey-drinking grandmother in love with a much younger woman. The film reportedly features a delicious shower scene that rivals in steaminess anything Deneuve has committed to film in recent decades. Reviews from abroad suggest the French film, which co-stars **Daniel Auteuil** (who, naturally, steals away the object of Deneuve's affections) is rather leaden, but really heats up when Deneuve comes onscreen. No news there. The film, directed by **Wild Reed's André Téchiné**, opens here January 17 with the English title, *The Thieves*.

Tearoom tome

Recently we rejoiced in print over the publication of *The Psychotronic Video Guide*, **Michael J. Weldon's** long-awaited update to his encyclopedia of B movies. Well, we think the next candidate for updating is the fantabulous *Tearoom Trade*, the 1970 sociology dissertation by one **Laud Humphreys**, an Episcopal minister who went well beyond the researcher's call of duty to find out just what homos do behind closed stalls. Humphreys became a look-out (for police or guys into the action), and thus was able to observe the intricacies of restroom etiquette.

For his trouble, the minister — who dedicates the book to his indulgent wife and children — was arrested once and was accused of producing an "operations manual for tearoom queens" (truth be told, his findings remain timely).

He also got some flack for concluding that gay-male sex in tearooms basically wasn't hurting anyone, a fairly enlightened position, especially for the time.

Among his observations: "Active homosexual locales are conspicuously lacking in initials, sketches of nude females, poetry, and certain of the more classic four-letter words." Who's got time to scribble with a cock in their mouth? Then there's an interview with the queer gent who describes the reaction of his typical **American mother** when she caught him "bare-assed in a 69 position" with a **boyhood pal**. "She just excused herself and backed out of the room. Later, when we were alone, she said, 'I'm not going to lecture you, dear, but I do hope you don't swallow that stuff!'" Isn't that what your mom would have said? ▼

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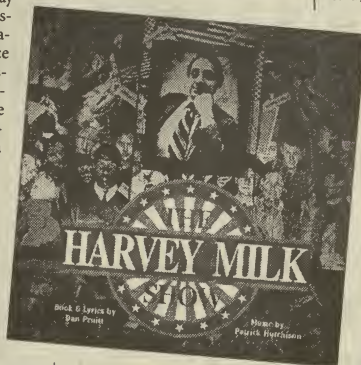
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bit to **Sondheim** during his *Follies* period, both in arpeggiated underscorings and the use of pastiche as an ironic comment on what's being sung, but even at its most derivative, it's more satisfying than the opera's endless wretchedtative. **Dan Pruit**'s lyrics have rhymes, turns of phrase, beginnings and ends, and



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Heather Matarazzo in Todd Solondz's *Welcome to the Dollhouse*.

Slim pickings

Few signs of intelligent life at the movies

by Gary Morris

Nineteen-ninety-six at the movies will be remembered, if at all, for a handful of cinematic ripples in a much-too-calm sea of mediocrity. The previously unknown Scottish cinema made a few inroads with *Trainspotting* and *Small Faces*. Ismail Merchant deserted James Ivory to make *The Proprietor*, a film even they probably couldn't sit through, and '60s television stopped yielding its dubious treasures; this year filmmakers looked farther back for inspiration, to art house classics like *Diabolique*, and farther still with resurrections of the overcivilized world of Jane Austen (*Emma*). Another backward-glancing film, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, managed to sink the career of a once-revered director (John Frankenheimer) while lifting a fat, fussy, feminine Marlon Brando into the stratosphere of camp. Hong Kong action masters John Woo and Ringo Lam were sucked in and spit out by the wheezing Hollywood dream machine with, respectively, *Broken Arrow* and *Maximum Risk* (which might have been subtitled *Minimum Yield*).

The most welcome — or reviled, depending on your point of view — trend was signaled by *Independence Day*. This special-effects-driven film showed decisively that the Day of the Movie Star is nearing an end. Average-Joe characters like Bill Pullman's are proving quite sufficient in providing a reassuring backdrop for increasingly over-the-top effects, and eventually the U.S. will follow recent trends in Japan by fabricat-

Kim Novak in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*.

ing computer superstars and dispensing entirely with the bloated egos and salaries of the flesh-and-blood versions. Even a star-driven special effects movie like *Space Jam*, with Michael Jordan, is less about cinema than about merchandising and the commodification of its star.

Still, there were a few signs of intelligent life at the movies in 1996, with a few brave souls continuing to turn out sometimes breathtaking human stories. I managed to find ten of these, ranked here alphabetically. Criteria, as always, are emotional truth and aesthetic durability — does the film reward repeated viewing? These will.

Bastard Out of Carolina

Yes, I know it's a TV movie, but this one should be released in theatres. (A pox on Ted Turner for al-

most suppressing it entirely.) Anjelica Huston translates Dorothy Allison's autobiographical memoir into a wrenching exploration of child abuse.

Breaking the Waves

Lars von Trier gives a definitive portrait of the cost religion exacts on its more wayward victims, in this case the beautiful, damned Bess (Emily Watson). Using handheld cameras and razor-sharp editing, Von Trier exploits the rugged beauty of Scotland's Northern coast with enormous skill.

The Funeral

Abel Ferrara's films aren't to everyone's taste, but this is a must-see for perhaps the best male performance of the year — Chris Penn as an unbalanced speak-easy operator in the '30s. Penn manages to make his character both repugnant and sympathetic during a crazed sermon on hell and damnation while screwing an underage girl.

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis

Yes, this is a revival that by all rights shouldn't be on a 1996 top ten list. But there is no reason not to celebrate this gorgeous 1971 film. It's autumnal in two senses — it was one of the last films by the great Vittorio de Sica; and it's a subtly dazzling look at a sacred space of innocence and affluence before the Fascists overtook Italy.

Paradise Lost

This outstanding documentary shows that the same kind of religious hysteria that drove the Salem witch trials in the 17th century is alive and well in the backwaters of the U.S., in this case West Memphis, Arkansas. The film is grueling to watch, not only because of the graphic evidence of the deaths of the three little boys but because it shows how perilously close we are to barbarism in convicting a group of young men who look and act "different" from the mainstream.

Secrets and Lies

Families — often working-class — are director Mike Leigh's subject, and no one observes them more keenly. His characters, created out of a densely detailed improvisation, alternately attack each other and recede in a sizzling emotional spiral, somehow attaining a kind of bruised nobility in the process. There is no better actress working today than Bren-

page 35 ►

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THEATER

Flesh and blood

Local theater was compassionate, funny, crude, and shrewd in 1996

by Chad Jones

The year 1996 in theater was marked less by spectacles and mega-hits than it was by solid work and intriguing surprises. Looking back over the year, three names come immediately to mind as having made a significant mark on local theater: John Fisher, Danny Scheie, and Sean San José Blackman.

John Fisher is the award-winning gay playwright, actor and director whose *Medea, the Musical* found a home for campy, energetic gay theater in the heart of San Francisco's theater district. *Medea* will conclude its nine-month run on January 5, at which time Fisher and his troupe of actors, who call themselves Sassy-mouth, will go into rehearsals to prepare for an appearance at the HBO-sponsored Aspen Comedy Festival in late March and early February. Even with a hit on his hands that he wrote, directed, and starred in, Fisher did not remain idle. He premiered the ambitious three-hour *Combat! An American Melodrama* on the U.C. Berkeley campus early in March and the one-hour *U.C., A Farce* earlier this month. Both plays displayed Fisher's considerable writing and directing skills, not to mention his charming abilities as an actor. The historical scope and canny direction of *Combat!*, which details the lives of enlisted gay men and lesbians during World War II, are this year's greatest indicators that great things are still to come out of Bay Area theater.

Danny Scheie is a man of many talents, and in 1996 he was given the opportunity to display most of them. This openly gay director put his distinctive mark on William Inge's '50s pulp drama *Picnic* for Marin Theatre Company, then took to the boards himself last summer to perform in the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's outdoor production of *Love's Labours Lost*. As a peppy and flirtatious Ferdinand, King of Navarre, Scheie was by far the most interesting, vibrant actor on the stage — even though he was playing it "straight." Scheie's next acting stint came in the Magic Theatre's *Pieces of the Quilt*, in which he played the ghost of a man who has recently died of AIDS. With comic flair and an underlying poignancy, Scheie was a standout in the *Quilt* ensemble.

Scheie is currently in rehearsals for next month's Theatre Rhinoceros production of *The Stand-In*, by gay writer Keith Curran. But even with a busy rehearsal schedule, Scheie still found time to take part in John Karr and F. Allen Sawyer's 100th birthday tribute to Ira Gershwin, entitled *Of He We Sing*. Scheie stole the show as the ringmaster in the circus scene from Gershwin and Kurt Weill's *Lady in the Dark*. In a role originated by Danny Kaye, Scheie performed the tongue-twisting comedy number "Tchaikovsky" without flubbing a syllable or muffing a line. Danny Scheie is unique in Bay Area theater: he's a one-man band who moves easily from the gay circuit to the mainstream without missing a beat. Long may he play.

Actor, educator, Svengali

Sean San José Blackman, one of the busiest and most compelling young actors working in the Bay Area today, displayed theater at its compassionate, riskiest best in two ways this year. First, in the Magic Theatre production of Octavio Solis's *Prospect*, he played a naive young man named Scout who performs a startling act of compassion on stage when he alleviates the excruciating pain of terminally ill Elena (played by Mónica Sánchez) by performing oral sex with her, thereby transforming her debilitating pain into a final state of ecstasy. As the scene played out, the audience was alive with dread and anticipation. You could sense people holding their breath and wondering whether to be shocked, offended, or instilled with the wonder of the characters' respective compassion and re-

lease. This was the most memorable moment of theater in 1996.

But Blackman's strong presence this year reached beyond his activity on the stage. With *Pieces of the Quilt*, a project Blackman created with Magic Theatre Artistic Director Mame Hunt and his own Alma Delfina Group, the actor found a way to honor his mother and father — both of whom died of AIDS — and educate theater audiences young and old about AIDS. Blackman was able to persuade 18 of this country's best playwrights, from Tony Kushner and Edward Albee to Maria Irene Fornes and Erin Cressida Wilson, to donate one-act plays specifically about AIDS to be performed together and separately anywhere people come together, be it in a school gymnasium or a theater like the Magic, where seven of the plays received a full



Steven Rhyne, Michael Gaffney, and Ted Bales in David Dillon's *Party*.

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Evita

◀ Arts cover

The film opens with Eva Peron's death at the age of 33. In a quick flashback to the Argentine countryside, we see the young, illegitimate Eva Duarte crashing her father's funeral, over the objections of his legitimate family. A few songs later, the teenage Eva (Madonna) is sleeping her way to Buenos Aires on the arm of a tango singer. Once there, she climbs the bedroom ladder of success, from one gentleman to another, acquiring employment as a model, actress, and radio personality along the way. Eventually she lands in the arms of General Juan Peron (Jonathan Pryce) and ends up as the First Lady of Argentina. As patron saint of the "descamisados" (the shirtless workers of the lower classes), Eva is despised by the wealthy establishment of Argentina. Just as she is about to be placed on the ballot as Peron's vice president, Eva is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

In the film, as in the play, Eva's story is told by Che (Antonio Banderas), a sardonic, Brechtian narrator inspired by the Latino revolutionary Che Guevara. Che's observations illuminate Eva's struggle while simultaneously questioning her motivations and success. This technique serves the story well, both dramatically and musically, providing an opportunity for point/counterpoint commentary as well as some interesting duets.

As written, Che's role is limited to basic recitative with no big numbers or singular musical moments. The unexpected miracle of *Evita* is the fact that Antonio Banderas is pitch-perfect as Che. In his previous appearances in English-language films, Banderas has been highly decorative but frequently unintelligible. In *Evita*, he steals the film. Banderas has good diction, good looks, a good voice, and he demonstrates the thoroughly convincing political passion essential to making the fictional Che come alive. Banderas brings the kind of incendiary quality to this role that makes everyone else seem disconnected.

Madonna just short of the mark

Struggling for big screen success after a series of disasters, Madonna gives this role her best, but she is not a natural soprano. She delivers a straightforward rendition of "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" and has even better success with "What's New, Buenos Aires" and the newly-created Webber/Rice ballad, "You Must Love Me." But it is clear that she is working at the upper limits of her vocal range. Madonna shares more than a few character traits with Eva Peron, and whenever the script calls for cunning determination, Madonna delivers. But Eva's passion should parallel and amplify the passion of Che so that one feeds off the other, making Eva's climb and her early demise even more poignant. In this respect, Madonna falls short of the dramatic requirements.

She communicates Eva's iron will and convincingly portrays the character's sorrow just before her death, but Madonna never embodies the passion Eva Peron felt for her country, her husband, or her descamisados. Madonna brings the right intentions to the part, but not the requisite depth. As a result, a film that could be an emotional gut-wrencher never really engages the emotions at all.

In the thankless role of Peron, Jonathan Pryce acquires himself admirably. Essentially, in both the



Antonio Banderas and Madonna

stage and film versions of *Evita*, Peron functions as little more than a place-holder for his wife. Pryce at least brings some humanity to the role.

One of the things that will put *Evita* over the top at the box office is Brian Morris' incredible production design and Darius Khondji's exceptional photography. *Evita* is a visually stunning film, with thousands of extras and exceptional production values. In this sense, it is a throwback to films from a different era. Penny Rose provides so many costume changes for Madonna that her wardrobe almost undercuts the story. When Eva, as First Lady, is being groomed for her "Rainbow Tour," she exalts in her new sartorial splendor, instructing underlings to "Christian Dior me." But at this point in the film, the new gowns and furs represent no change whatsoever; Madonna has been impeccably turned out from the beginning. This is a curious moment, one that not only contradicts the narrative, but robs the leading lady of a potentially dramatic transition.

With only a few such missteps, director Alan Parker brings *Evita* to the screen with remarkable success. At one point, he has a male chorus singing in the shower; the men are shown standing under running water, lathering up while wearing towels around their waists. The wisdom of this unnatural choice seems questionable. And when it comes to quiet moments, Parker adopts a scorched earth policy. The first moment of silence in this high-decibel musical onslaught comes two-thirds of the way through, in the middle of "Don't Cry for me Argentina." Unless he was setting up Madonna for her Big Moment, Parker would have been better advised to provide the audience with a few more subtle interludes. In this respect, however, he may have been hamstrung by Andrew Lloyd Webber's score. Generally speaking, Parker retains most of the original play while opening it up to take advantage of the film medium, and he gets better performances from both Madonna and Antonio Banderas than anyone had reason to expect.

In preparing to attend a screening of *Evita*, those cineastes under the care of a local physician may be well advised to insulate themselves with a little medicinal marijuana. Any head-on collision with a freight train will be greatly improved by the administration of anaesthesia. ▼

Evita opens January 1 at the Regency I Theater in San Francisco. The film goes into general release at theaters throughout the Bay Area on January 10.

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THEATER

Local theater

◀ page 33

production last October. Just as Blackman's work on stage will no doubt flourish in the coming years, his **Pieces of the Quilt** project will continue to have a profound impact on all who experience it.

Fleshtacles

The 1996 theatrical year also saw its fair share of what some of us call "naked plays." In what can best be described as a cross between sexual pride and shrewd marketing, an evening of gay theater often meant an evening of ample tits and ass, and just about everything else, too. The leader of the pack in "naked plays" is the little New Conservatory Theatre. Their "Gay Pride Season" began with the horrendous **Two Boys In Bed On a Cold Winter's Night**, which was little more than a few tired lines of dialogue strung together to connect the nude scenes, and their recent shows, **Fortune and Men's Eyes** and **Vanities**, continue the tradition, which apparently is so predictable now it has caused audiences to dub the theater the "Nude Conservatory."

The New York and Chicago hit **Party** hit our fair city with a vengeance in June and had a respectable run (it closes in early January). As a prolonged striptease with campy jokes, **Party** was entertaining, but hardly serious (or skillful) play writing. Ronnie Larsen's **Making**

Porn was a little more ambitious, but just as nude. With real-life gay porn star Rex Chandler in the lead role, **Porn** was just another excuse to see actors in the buff. Prior to this surge of naked plays, one had to travel to the Campus Theatre or Nob Hill for such spectacle.

Theatre Rhino got its nudie licks in with a charming bit of fluff about San Francisco hustlers called **Out Calls Only**, but the naked play award of 1996 really goes to Berkeley Repertory Theatre's production of Terrence McNally's **Love! Valour! Compassion!** Though not a masterpiece, McNally's play about gay men kvetching in a country house over a series of holiday weekends utilized male nudity in a way that was more dramatically convincing — and sexy — than many of the aforementioned works.

Theatre Rhino had a strong season with Keith Curran's transgender drama **Walking the Dead**, which may not have hit all the right marks but was at least bold and well-acted. Rhino hit it big in the fall with Guillermo Reyes' romantic comedy about race and gender, **Deporting the Divas: Postcards from the Border**. The Asian American Theater Company also made its presence

known with a striking production of gay playwright Chay Yew's **A Language of Their Own**, and the Creatus theater group made a strong debut with an excellent revival of **The Boys in the Band**.

Solo shows continued to be a creative outlet for gay and lesbian performers. Tim Miller's **Fruit Cocktail** at Josie's Cabaret was the year's freshest, most scintillating solo show, while gay New Yorker James Lecesne brought his astonishing **Word of Mouth** back to town after making a big splash with it in the 1995 Solo Mio Festival. This year's Fringe Festival offered up one of the year's best surprises in **Character!** or **Working for the Mouse** by Trevor Allen, in which Allen details his employment as the costumed Pluto in Disneyland. With the aid of an acerbic wit, Allen created a hilarious world of fascist employers and insane tourists that amused Disney fans and foes alike.

Though no theater company created the hit heard 'round the world this year, 1996 was an especially solid year in Bay Area theater nonetheless. In these rocky economic and artistic times, that's saying a lot. Happy New Year and hope to see you at the theater. ▼



Robert Henry Johnson, Delia MacDougall, and Sean San José Blackman from the Magic Theatre's production of *Pieces of the Quilt*.

Movies in '96

◀ page 32

da Blethyn.

Shine

Like *Secrets and Lies*, this one has a complex parent-child relationship at its center, in this case a musical prodigy and his alternately abusive and loving father. Based on the real-life story of classical pianist David Helfgott, Scott Hick's film explores the grim dynamics of the family and the cost of genius. Geoffrey Rush excels as the sweet-natured, babbling human wreck, David.

Vertigo

Another revival that could hardly go unnoticed is Alfred Hitchcock's puzzling, and in some ways definitive, portrait of sexual obsession. Hitch complained about having to use Kim Novak, but a more "believable" actress might have been out of place in this unique, lurid, wantonly artificial dreamscape.

Vive L'Amour

Some viewers found this film difficult, and certainly sometimes the agonizingly slow pacing was challenging. But director Tsai Ming-liang explores the modern industrial wasteland of Taipei with a skill that recalls early Antonioni. Who would have dreamed a director could wring so much existential comedy from the image of a woman vainly chasing a fly through an empty room?

Welcome to the Dollhouse

Todd Solondz's wonderfully witty take on growing up absurd in post-mall America was surprisingly successful for an independent film made on a shoe-string. Among the many satirical gems here is the heroine's little sister, who doesn't mind being kidnapped by the local pervert because "she had her own TV and all the McDonald's she could eat." ▼

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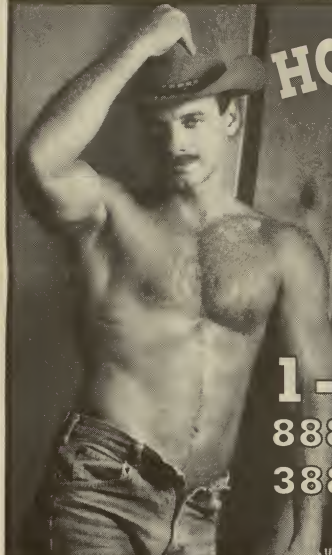



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Tepid tunes

Music less than the sum of its parts in '96

by Adrian Roberts

Another year, another top ten list. To be honest, I was wary about putting this list together. Looking back on the year in music, I realized that for me, no single album really stood out. Yes, there were bands that generated decent material, but the lack of anything truly superior made me less than enthusiastic.

Now, I realize that as a queer music critic, I'm supposed to go ga-ga over bands, like, say, Imperial Teen, whose singer-guitarist Roddy Bottum is gay. Yet, while I found their debut album, *Seasick*, a pleasant slice of alterna-pop, their live performances have been no less boring than those the band gave two years ago when they called themselves Star 69.

And while 1996 was an important year for dyke-ified rock, with San Francisco's Tribe 8 and Stone Fox and Portland's Team Dresch all releasing serviceable sophomore efforts, not one of these groups has gone beyond the benchmarks set by their debut records.

B-52s frontman Fred Schneider released a solo album in 1996, *Just Fred*, produced by Steve Albini, who has worked with Nirvana and Sonic Youth. The producer's trademark loud and raucous sound is showcased here, and while it's fun to hear an old queen like Fred punk out, the novelty wears off quickly, leaving one with a rather ordinary rock record, albeit well-produced.

Extra Fancy's *Sinnerman* was released on Atlantic earlier this year, before the band was unceremoniously dropped by the label. However, the indie-label version of the album made my top ten list last year.

Really, the only queer band on my list that seems to be in every other critic's top ten is Olympia, Washington's Sleater-Kinney. Singer-guitarist Corin Tucker's previous band, Heavens To Betsy, was just as intense and powerful as Sleater-Kinney, but for some reason this post-riot grrrl trio has gotten considerably more press. Maybe it just took a few years for everyone else to catch up with Corin's urgent singing and angry songwriting.

The following top ten picks is a diverse mix of records by both queer and straight artists, and music that runs the gamut, from rock to techno. As usual, it is entirely subjective.



L.A.'s finest: The Geraldine Fibbers

Cibo Matto—Viva! La Woman (Warner Bros.)

Two Japanese women from New York's Lower East Side concoct a musically eclectic album on which practically every single song is about food.

Eat Static—Epsilon (Planet Dog/Mammoth)

Featuring two ex-members of English prog rock band Ozric Tentacles, this CD is what happens when aging hippies start

on record, they're truly godlike in concert. This limited-edition CD attempts to capture that vibe. Simply the finest mix of country and rock you'll ever hear.

Marilyn Manson—Antichrist Superstar (Nothing/Interscope)

Beating the sophomore jinx, this is scary satanic industrial rock made palatable by an almost sing-along pop sensibility. Parents should fear for their lives when their children listen to this.



Britain's Underworld: Techno music made by humans, not robots.

making techno music. Sounds better than you have any right to expect.

Enrique—Cut The Cheese (Townsend Agency)

It's always nice to have a local band on a list like this. Kitzchy yet catchy, some people just don't get it. LA zine *Ben is Dead* wrote, "They can't be serious," but the beautiful thing is, they are.

The Geraldine Fibbers—Live at the Bottom of the Hill (Virgin)

As good as the Fibbers sound

Placebo—Placebo (Caroline)

Brian Molko, a pixie-like American androgynist from London, sings angst-ridden pop ditties as if he just sucked down a canister of helium, while his buzzing, feverish lead guitar recalls the Pixies on methamphetamine.

R.E.M.—New Adventures in Hi-Fi (Warner Bros.)

For three days straight all I listened to was "Leave," perhaps one of the greatest R.E.M. songs ever. Once my obsession with this track passed, I discovered the rest of the CD isn't so bad either.

Scheer—Inflition (4AD)

Pantera meets The Sundays. Can't picture it? You should. It's surprising that no other band has thought of combining soft, ethereal female vocals with chunky power chords.

Sleater-Kinney—Call The Doctor (Chainsaw)

The only dyke band that seemingly all rock critics find worthy of mention in year-end top ten lists.

Underworld—Second Toughest in the Infants (Wax Trax!/TVT)

Quite simply the best dance music of the year. Techno with surprising warmth, due in part to the sensitive use of guitars, vocals, and lyrics. Sounds like rave music made by humans, not robots. ▼



Placebo: two tall Swedes and an American pixie from London.

OPERA



Carol Vaness (left) and Cecilia Bartoli (right).

Seductive 'Così'

Cecilia Bartoli shines in Metropolitan Opera telecast

by Stephanie von Buchau

I don't think it is any secret that the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* — telecast on PBS Monday, December 30 (check local listings for time) — was mounted for the long-awaited Met debut of Cecilia Bartoli. The modest role of Despina in this delicious sex comedy allowed her to perform without having to carry the show and risk repeating the disaster that struck another overhyped debutant, Robert Alagna, in last season's *La Bohème*.

The role of the wily, avaricious maidservant, usually sung by a squeaky soubrette, fits the ebullient Roman mezzo like a Spandex glove. Every recitative is clear as crystal, while the camera adores Bartoli's dimpled expressions and pudgy little body. If stage director Lesley Koenig had resisted the temptation to turn Despina into a figure of tragedy in the finale — you haven't seen that black a brow since the Crawford coat hanger incident — the portrait would have been even more endearing.

Fortunately, this *Così*, videotaped last February, is not just a Bartoli sideshow, but an intelligently conceived and acted psychological comedy, controlled by a suave ringmaster in Thomas Allen's philosophical Don Alfonso. The two fickle sisters from Ferrara, Fiordiligi and Dorabella, are the sort of wealthy, idle young minxes who deserve the mean trick Alfonso plays on them. Characterized as pretty and shallow (perhaps more than librettist Lorenzo da Ponte meant), they are sung and acted to perfection by Carol Vaness and Susanne Mentzer, both slender, attractive women with major voices.

Major, that is, if you can accept a certain American coolness that infects both ladies and Dwayne Croft, the tall, smooth baritone from Cooperstown who looks as if he should be playing first base for the Yankees rather than singing Guglielmo. All my Met pals drool over Croft; he certainly is a sight to behold in tight white military breeches. You have to de-

cide for yourself, however, if crisp American confidence is what you really desire in an opera singer.

I might not have noticed, except that Jerry Hadley sings Ferrando, the hapless lover of the ditsy Dorabella. As part of the bet with Don Alfonso, Ferrando gets to break down Fiordiligi's defenses in "Fra gli amplessi," the most seductive love duet in opera. As he recently demonstrated in SF Opera's *Tales of Hoffmann*, Hadley's vocal method seems breathy and not entirely centered these days, but he has also stopped forcing his lovely, Italianate tenor.

Viewing the *Così* video only days after I saw the last *Hoffmann* performance, I realized I was having the same reaction to Hadley's Mozart that I had to his Offenbach character. I was believing him. While most in this cast give elegant demonstration of 18th-century artifice, Hadley comes across as a real person. This Ferrando probably flunks bed check, can't keep his musket clean, and clearly overindulges in pasta and vino. Yet when he breaks in on Fiordiligi's mock heroics and demands that she yield to him, his disheveled messiness makes him irresistible. Vaness positively hurls herself at him.

Michael Yeargen's stage pictures of out-of-doors Naples are ravishing, bright and blue-green like the Tyrrhenian Sea, with terrific lighting by Duane Schuler. I haven't seen such a well-lit Met TV program since those blinding Ponnelle Mozart shows from the '70s. I'm not sure, however, why so much of Act One is played in Despina's gloomy kitchen; ladies of leisure did not spend time below stairs. That scene, Koenig's darkening of Despina in the finale, and James Levine's heavy, muscular conducting strike me as misguided attempts to give this gossamer opera weight. Anyone foolish enough to think he or she can improve Mozart is a candidate for literal head-shrinking.

As for ubiquitous TV director Brian Large, he keeps his cameras on Bartoli whether Despina is important to the scene or not. It's called commerce, or love. Bartoli inspires both in equal measure. ▼

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Booked '96

Ten books that made lasting impressions

by Roberto Friedman

Ten books by or about gay men that made an impression this year: all show genuine vision, all are "of the moment," and all have great legs—that is, they can be read and re-read with pleasure.

Aviary Slag by Jacques Servin (Fiction Collective Two)

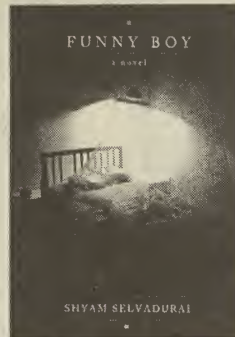
Bay Area author Jacques Servin was recently in the news for programming images of bikini-clad musclemen playing kissy-face into a video game during his day job. Equally subversive in prose, *Aviary Slag* is a delightful compendium of verbal invention and hilarious nonsense. Sample title: "He-Man Moments: The Matchless Shafts of Eventfulness."

The Beauty of Men by Andrew Holleran (William Morrow and Co.)
Eighteen years after the semi-

nal gay novel *Dancer from the Dance*, Andrew Holleran published his third novel. His protagonist, Lark, might have been one of the clones drugging and discoing with *Dancer's* Malone on Fire Island back in the day, but *Beauty* finds him pushing fifty. Haunted by the deaths of friends from New York, he lives in North Florida to care for his elderly mother. Lark spends his days shuttling between the nursing home and the boat ramp, an oasis off the highway for cruising and bush sex. Leavened by Lark's wry humor and insight, *Beauty* is full of memorable characters, dead and alive, and honesty about ex-urban gay life.

Funny Boy by Shyam Selvadurai (William Morrow and Co.)

Shyam Selvadurai's beautiful first novel is a coming-of-age story set in Sri Lanka against the backdrop of civil war between the Tamils and Sinhalese. Selvadurai



fled the 1983 riots in Colombo with his family, and now lives in Toronto. *Funny Boy* is full of nostalgia for his homeland, an exile's bittersweet look back. But it is equally the story of how a boy's gay awakenings can co-exist with a very traditional homelife. At the novel's outset, young Anjie plays with the girls. By its climactic end, he's playing with a handsome schoolmate.

Journeys & Arrivals

by Lev Raphael (Faber and Faber)
Fiction writer Lev Raphael's essays on being gay and Jewish are defiant in their strong sense of ethnic and sexual identity. His stories and novel, *Winter Eyes*, are remarkable for their honesty and insight, and his autobiographical pieces turn out to be similarly piercing. My favorite essay here is a fiery retort to (gay, Jewish) author David Leavitt's and others' attacks on Andrew Holleran, originally published in *Lambda Rising*, titled, "Why Are They Bashing *Dancer from the Dance*?"

Let It Bleed by Gary Indiana (Serpent's Tail)

Gary Indiana is the gleeful piranha of alternative journalism. Only Indiana could tongue-lash Gregg Araki for not reading books, then offer him a blowjob, as he did in a *Voice* interview. His fiction is brilliant, but this collection of essays published between 1985 and '95 proves Indiana to be the sharpest wit on today's newsstands.

A Man of the House

by Stephen McCauley (Simon & Schuster)

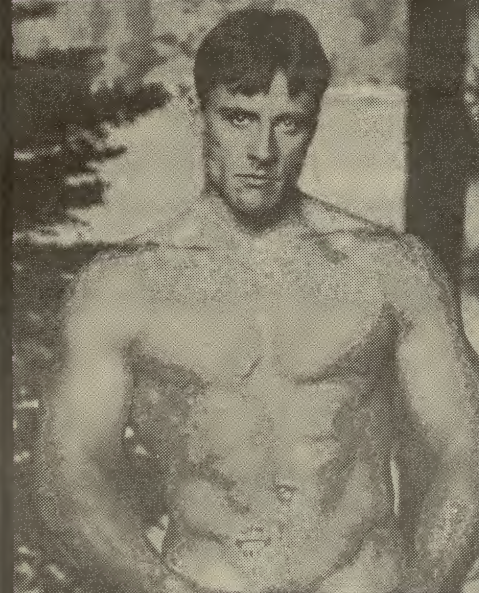
Fans of Stephen McCauley's previous novels *The Object of My Affection* and *The Easy Way Out* will enjoy his latest. Clyde Carmichael is a portrait of a gay slacker, slouching towards middle age, teaching adult education courses like "Love and Marriage, Horse and Carriage: Relationship Issues in some Nineteenth-Century Novels." His love life: still pining for an ex-lover-turned-yuppie-monster. His living situation: roommates with a totally handsome, totally unavailable straight guy. His idea of a great time: holed up in bed, reading stacks of movie star bios. McCauley's novel is très '90s, but without all those annoying generational markers that denote "Gen X" literature.

Pop Art: Queer Warhol edited by Jennifer Doyle, Jonathan Flatley, José Esteban Muñoz (Duke University Press)

Ten years after his death, Andy Warhol is still with us. *Nico Icon, I Shot Andy Warhol* and *Basquiat* brought Andy to the silver screen

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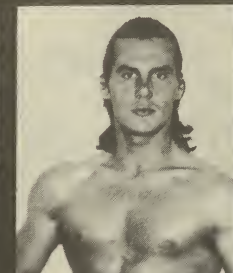
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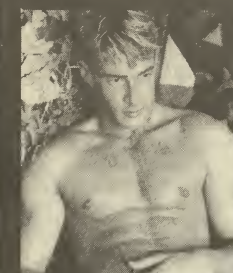
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BOOKS



this year. Exalting Warhol as a gay artist, *Pop Out* editors Jennifer Doyle, Jonathan Flatley and José Esteban Muñoz have corralled such "name" queer theorists as

Simon Watney and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick to out the queer context for Warhol's most important work, from underground films *Blow Job* and *My Hustler* to paintings based on porno and homo-eroticism.

Some Remarkable Men, Further Memoirs by James Lord (Farrar Straus Giroux)

James Lord's four-part memoir recounts his friendships with the aesthete Harold Acton, artist Jean Cocteau, painter Balthus, and sculptor Alberto Giacometti. Lord's reminiscences are candid and freewheeling (Cocteau and his humpy companion Edouard "Doudou" Dermit are opium-addled pipeheads; Acton enjoys the "silken penises" of Peking boys), but he treats Giacometti with reverence. The author made his rep-

utation with his biography of Giacometti, and this account leaves no doubt that, from his first visit to the artist's studio, he knew he was in the presence of genius.

Truth Serum by Bernard Cooper (Houghton Mifflin)

Bernard Cooper's brilliant new memoir of growing up gay in LA is a high-wire act of personal prose. Cooper writes with honesty and precision about awkward gay adolescence, doomed affairs and gym consciousness. He takes common experiences and endows them with great clarity and grace. His work, including *Maps to Anywhere* and *A Year of Rhymes*, deserves to be better known.

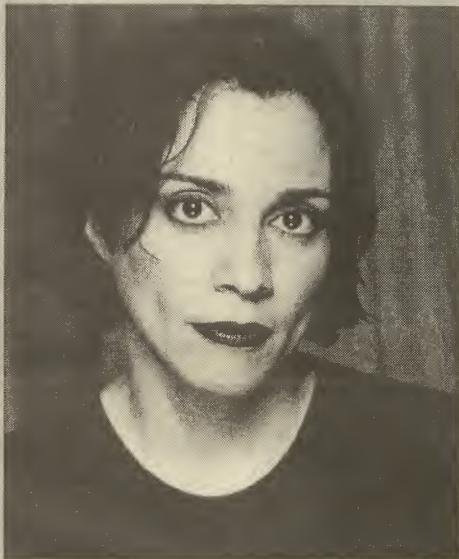
What the Body Told by Rafael Campo (Duke University Press)

Rafael Campo's poetry comes, strong and powerful, from his experience as a gay Cuban-American physician, working with AIDS patients and other medical emergencies in an inner-city hospital. "I look inside their other-person's mouths/ And see the sleek interior of souls./ It's warm and red in there—like love, with teeth./ I've studied medicine until I cried/ All night."

Almost made the list: the catalog for *Beat Culture* (Whitney Museum/Flammarion); Patrick Merla's anthology of coming out stories, *Boys Like Us* (Avon); *The Golden Age of Promiscuity* (Knopf); Brad Gooch's novel of the '70s; Frank Browning's thoughtful *A Queer Geography* (Crown); James C. Johnstone and Karen X. Tulchinsky's anthology *Queer View Mirror* (Arsenal Pulp); and the Harry Hay collection *Radically Gay* (Beacon). ▼

COMEDY

Marga Gomez redux



Drag in the new year! Join comedian Marga Gomez and the Kinsey Sicks, the world's premier dragapella beauty shop quartet, in a wild night of comedy, music, and gender-bending resolutions (audience members in holiday drag will be rewarded). Gomez, who's been in New York recently, returns to her stand-up roots with "Joking the Chicken," which she will perform at Josie's again on January 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Tickets for the New Year's Eve show with the Kinsey Sicks (8 & 10 p.m.) are \$20. Josie's is at 3583 16th St. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information. ▼

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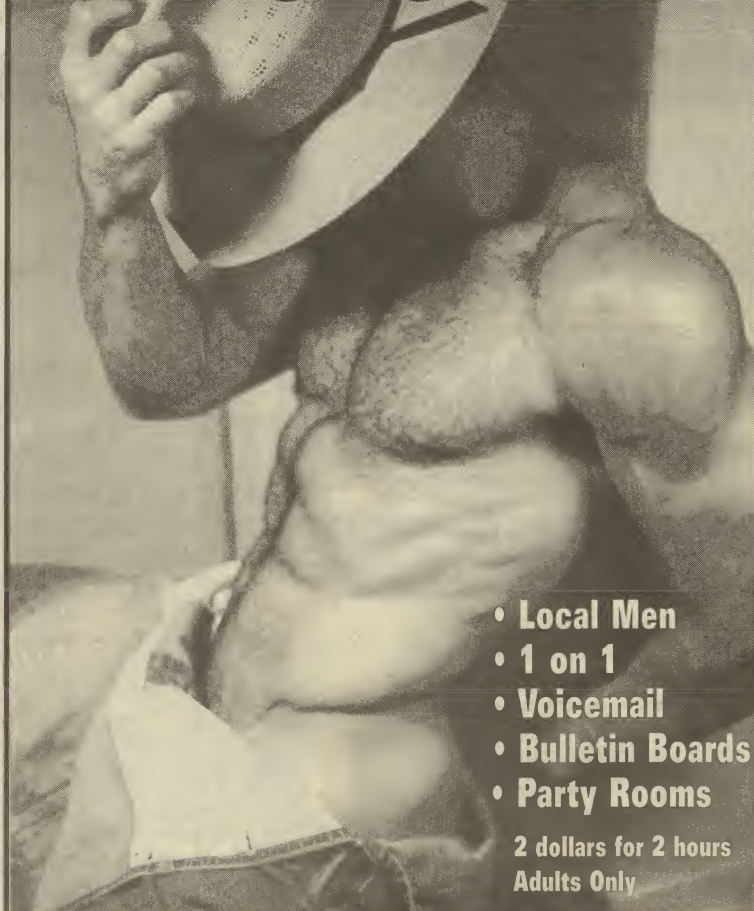
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1996

Peifer's picks

Literature that mattered in '96

by Deborah Peifer

It's that time of year when the voice of the editor is heard across the land: "Make a top ten list!" And while there is something wonderful about having the chance to revisit books that thrilled and delighted and amazed, the question remains: top ten what? Novels? Mysteries? Fiction? Non? Do I include best achievement or most courageous attempt? Most improved or consistently high quality over time? My choices for top ten are those books that captivated me when I first read them and which, in recalling them now, fill my reader's heart with unmixed delight.



Author Katherine V. Forrest

Liberty Square by Katherine V. Forrest (Berkeley Prime Crime)

The return of Katherine Forrest's extraordinary detective, Kate Delafield, after a five-year absence, was by itself a reason for rejoicing, but Forrest offered more than just a well-written mystery. She created in her fifth Delafield effort a new kind of police procedural, one that included both political and personal explorations woven seamlessly into the fabric of the narrative. Forrest returned Kate and her readers to the horrors of the Vietnam War with astonishing skill and heart-rending accuracy. The result was a gripping mystery that

engaged the heart, mind and soul.

Nowle's Passing
by Edith Forbes (Seal)

The arrival of Edith Forbes second novel, Nowle's Passing, was the triumphant promise of her first novel, Alma Rose, fulfilled. Forbes' writing was astonishing; her use of language, breathtaking. Here was a novel that exposed the depths and pains and joys of its characters in words that captured essences even as they freed them and us with a liberating explosion of feeling. Part mystery, in the way that Oedipus Rex might be called a mystery, part family chronicle, Nowle's Passing looked inside the souls of its characters and, at the same time, offered us, in an exquisitely phrased invitation, a chance to consider our own lives.

Acting = Life: An Actor's Life Lessons by Michael Kearns (Heinemann)

An acting textbook that everyone should read? Hard to imagine, but Michael Kearns' Acting = Life was a gift for the reader. Kearns explored the question of the authentic self, as it applied both to acting and real life, with grace and intelligence. Always a practical man as well as a consummate artist, Kearns offered simple exercises to enable the reader, actor or not, to find ways to her or his truest self, exercises filled with humor and heart.

The Last of Her Lies
by Jean Taylor (Seal)

A well-written mystery is one of the great pleasures of this or any reading life, and Jean Taylor's second Maggie Garrett provided pleasure in abundance. Taylor did all the right mystery stuff, but she added to that richly detailed characters, great humor and pointed, albeit affectionate, commentary on our lesbian communities. The result was a work that challenged as well as entertained, a fun read with extras.

Not So Much the Fall
by Kerry Hart (Third Side)

First novels are rarely worth more than passing notice, but Kerry Hart's Not So Much the Fall was noteworthy both for its audacious risk-taking and its astonishing success. Hart's novel was structured as stream of consciousness, and it was the first novel of that type I've read that had the real feel of a mind in torment. The author

created believable characters and placed them in a structure that supported their authentic lives.

Gender Shock: Exploding the Myths of Male and Female
by Phyllis Burke (Anchor)

Phyllis Burke's Gender Shock was indeed a shocking look at the ways in which the heterosexual psychiatric establishment continues to wield its power to damage, denigrate and destroy those children who fail to conform exactly to outmoded and patriarchal gender roles. Burke used case histories to stunning effect; the courageous struggles of young adults to overcome destructive gender therapies powerfully supported Burke's thesis. Gender Shock was a terrifying and infuriating journey into the world of institutional child abuse - one that demanded not just anger but action.

The Death of Friends
by Michael Nava (Putnam)

We queer people spend a great deal of time dealing with both identity and the revelation of that identity. To whom do we come out, and when, and how, are constant conundrums. In his fifth Henry Rios novel, Michael Nava investigated the corrosive power of secrets and the ways in which keeping those secrets waste our lives. But *The Death of Friends* was more than mere polemic. Nava constructed a many-layered mystery that was both technically excellent and emotionally satisfying.

Emerald City Blues
by Jean Stewart (Rising Tide)

When a writer finds a successful formula, the horrible temptation is to stick to the formula as long as readers are willing to keep buying. Jean Stewart, author of the very successful Isis science fiction series, risked all with a contemporary novel that eschewed science fiction for the gritty reality of street kids in Seattle. *Emerald City Blues* was a frightening look at our children, the gay and lesbian teenagers who inhabit the flophouses and alleys of our cities. Stewart created finely honed characters about whom we cared deeply and made us believe in the possibility of a happy ending.

Heart on Fire
by Diana Simmonds (Naiad)

Deep in my most secret soul lurks an impossible romantic, but

next page ►

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Turbans, slacks, and all that jazz

by Andy Velez

Star Style — Hollywood Legends as Fashion Icons by Patty Fox; Angel City Press, \$23.95

Reflected Glory: Reflections of Hollywood's Favorite Confidant by Sydney Guilaroff, as told to Cathy Griffin (introduction by Angela Lansbury); General Publishing Group, \$19.95

In the days of the great Hollywood dream factory, screen sirens could have mousy brown hair (Lucille Ball), be hippy (Joan Crawford) or flat-chested (Katherine Hepburn), have droopy boobs (Marlene Dietrich) or thick legs (Garbo). But the one thing they could not be without if they were to achieve goddesshood was style, as Patty Fox's *Star Style — Hollywood Legends as Fashion Icons* entertainingly illustrates. Using stunning black-and-white portraits, salient remarks from the stars, and a generous sprinkling of dishy anecdotes, *Star Style* underscores the idea that in Hollywood, beauty wasn't so much about good looks as it was the ability to accessorize, cop an attitude, and dress to kill.

Among those celebrated in *Star Style* are glamour queens like Joan Crawford and Marilyn Monroe, stars who seemed imprisoned by their own images, and those like Katherine Hepburn, who, though far less self-involved, always dressed to impress.

Marlene Dietrich, perhaps the most glamorous of all screen legends of the 1930s and '40s, once said, "The word glamour means something indefinite— unreal, desirable but basically out of reach." This book goes a great distance in revealing the extent to which some of these stars went to live that unreality. Despite the occasional factual error— *Cheyenne Autumn* was directed by John Ford, not John Huston— *Star Style* is a chatty, fascinating read. Nobody who loves Hollywood lore and gorgeous photography should be without it.

Even if the great Hollywood studios of the '30s and '40s were to suddenly make a comeback, it's unlikely there'd be a man like Sydney Guilaroff to work in them. Guilaroff was one of Hollywood's greatest hairstylists during the '30s, '40s and '50s. He was also a trusted advisor and confidant to many of the celebrity heads he coifed, making him at a certain point one of the most envied celebrities in La La Land.

Peifer's picks

◀ page 40

I rarely find romantic novels that are not impossibly sappy or relentlessly icky. Heart on Fire, Diana Simmonds' first novel, was a deeply satisfying voyage to the heart of true love. Combining coming out with coming home, Simmonds took what in the hands of a lesser writer would have been dreary cliché — actually several clichés — and made a touching story of the promise of love and romance. The coming together of her two fearful lovers was genuinely moving and, mirabile visu, completely believable.



Sydney Guilaroff prepares Marlene Dietrich for that close-up in *Kismet*.


Guilaroff's autobiography, *Crowning Glory: Reflections of Hollywood's Favorite Confidant*, is the story of a man who respected secrets, and who also possessed a rare intuitive talent for knowing what was right for the actors with whom he worked. He was the one, after all, who transformed Lucille Ball from "just another blonde" into a ravishing redhead.

The author reveals in these pages for the first time that he'd had a decade-long affair with Garbo and a friendship that lasted until the movie star's death. His recollections of Garbo and the times they spent together are told with insight, thoughtfulness, and credibility, qualities noticeably absent from the many books that have been penned about Garbo.

But the best parts of *Crowning Glory* are those devoted to the discussion of Guilaroff's work on such famous films as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Cleopatra*, *Camille*, and *The Misfits*, and his relationships with celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Lana Turner, Ingrid Bergman, Liz Taylor, and 2,000 others. His list of film credits is truly astounding. ▼

My Lover Is a Woman:
Contemporary Lesbian Love Poems edited by Lesléa Newman (Ballantine)

I don't know why — perhaps because we have all written, with greater or lesser success, poetry — but we seem to find it easy to pick up a volume in a bookstore, read (and admire) a few poems, and then put it back on the shelf. Lesléa Newman's glorious collection of lesbian love poems was a powerful incentive to buy, however. A skillful editor with a discerning eye for quality, Newman gathered love poetry by 126 writers, both old favorites and new, in a glorious celebration of the torrid and touching, sensual and silly, truths of lesbian love. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman

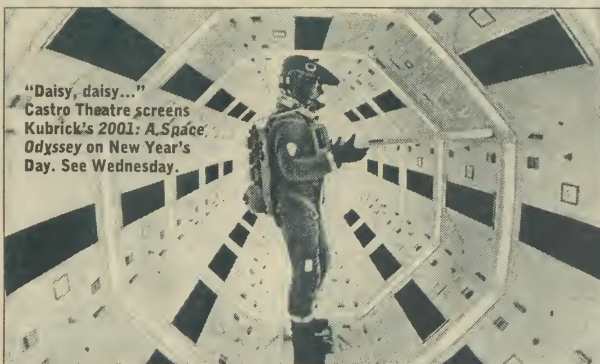
Happy nude queer

Who ever heard of New Year's Eve on a Tuesday night? Here we go again in mindless celebration of the mere changing of a calendar page. But, as you might imagine, it's a real meaningful holiday for a Calendar Editor. Chance to start from scratch, clean that slate, kick all those nasty habits, etc. And here at the B.A.R., we get to roll that Sisyphean rock, issue #1, up the hill all over again.

Something twisted in having to write the New Year's Eve column—the booziest of holidays, after all—while still hungover from the company “holiday” party. Drank sparkling white wine from New Mexico all night—which reminds me of my two holiday tips regarding that seasonal beverage. Tip number one: Buy the good stuff, not the cheap stuff. For a few bucks more, you can get decent bubbly at Trader Joe's or any of those warehouse markets. Tip number two: Alka Seltzer Plus and plenty of water, before you pass out and wake up to a bleary 1997.

Lots of listings for the big night (see Tuesday). You can choose from Debbie Harry at Torturedome, Chris Isaak at the big Embarcadero bash, Beethoven's Ninth in concert, Marga Gomez at Josie's, and just about every nightclub in town. Here's a radical idea: the Living Sober dance. Take over the streets in the Castro. Or volunteer to help prepare or deliver Project Open Hand's New Year's Eve meals (call 226-2421).

Or fuck it all and stay home. Maybe my best-ever NY's E was spent in bed with a buddy in Belgium. And a few bottles of champers, chilled of course. ▼



“Daisy, daisy...”
Castro Theatre screens
Kubrick's 2001: A Space
Odyssey on New Year's
Day. See Wednesday.

Eg

En Drag

Female impersonators in revue, hosted by Chablis. \$3, 2 drink min/m. 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Inheriting a Broken World

National youth town hall. 9pm. KQED-TV, Ch. 9.

Joking the Chicken

Comedian Marga Gomez with old and new material, plus squishy puppets. Thru 1/5, call for dates. \$12. Tonight at 8&10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

More than a Mouthful
Queer culture TV, incl. Pansy Division's Chris Freeman, Sex Between Men author Doug Sadownick. 10pm. Cable Ch. 53.

Musical Instruments

“From Around the World,” exhibit: a Kuwaiti oud, an Angolan sanza ckwwe, a Vietnamese dan tranh, more. Mon.-Fri. thru 12/27. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery. 983-4000.

Nervous Laughter

Holiday comedy sketches: eggnog, family tensions, alcoholism. Thurs.-Sat. thru 12/28 at 8:30pm. \$8-12. Marsh Theater, 1062 Valencia.

Nutcracker

Oakland Ballet, Oakland East Bay Symphony in holiday classic. \$6-36. Thru 12/29, call for dates. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 776-1999.

Outlook Video

Monthly gay and lesbian news/entertainment video magazine. 5:30pm. Cable Channel 53.

Suburbia

Vintage photographs by Bill Owens. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/25. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Vanities

Gay version of Jack Heifner's comedy: lives of three Texas football players. Extended thru 1/11, call for dates. \$16-20. 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

You Don't Look Mexican

A young lesbian Latina examines her identity in Julie

Padilla's one-woman play. Mon., Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 12/29. \$10. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 267-4895.

Sat

Big Deal

Silkscreen artist Jim Winters unveils new large portraits, by appointment thru 1/1. Showroom, 442A Haight. 487-9440.

Bridges

“A Collaborative Project,” 115th Annual Exhibition, includes Ann Chamberlain, Ian Pollock & Janet Silk, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/12. Walter/MeBean Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 749-4545.

Diva:

“Honoring Opera's Legendary Women” exhibition of documentary photos, sculpture and paintings of great prima donnas. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/11. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Late Nite with Joan Jett Blakk

Sensational guests, smart



Futura and Brinca present Angelina, live at La Noche de Año Nuevo Latino dance party. See Tuesday.

talk, biting humor. \$10. Mid-nite. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Red at Rio

Hip hop, dance hall, house, DJs Evol E, Olga T. \$5. 9pm-2am. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

Syn

Art- Wear It!

International group show of high fashion and wearable art. Thru 1/12. Artfibers Gallery, 124 Sutter. 956-6319.

Body Positive

Mountain bike ride, social group for positive gay men. Beginning, intermediate levels. Call for info. (510) 835-5454.

Cami Thompson

Vocalist, accompanied by Si Perloff on piano and bass. 7-11pm. Alta Plaza, 2301 Fillmore. 922-1444.

GAWK

Gay Artists and Writers' Collective seeks video editors, guitar players, publishers. Sundays at 3pm. Location, info: 731-2424.

Godless Sunday Morning

Gay and Lesbian Atheists and Humanists gather for coffee, conversation. 10am. Meet in balcony, Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 824-5445.

MACT Beer/Soda Bust

Benefits Men of All Colors Together/SFBA. \$6. 4-8pm. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Steve Thompson

Photographs inspired by SF-MOMA, thru Dec. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Yong Bae

Paintings and prints by Korean-born modernist artist. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/20. \$6. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Mon

Appropriated Emotion

Art by Diane Fenster and Miles Stryker. Mon.-Sat. thru 12/31. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

Dana Atherton Duo

Piano and bass perform, 7-11pm. Alta Plaza, 2301 Fillmore. 922-1444.

Gay Book Clubs

Gay men's book club reads

Barrel Fever by David Sedaris; lesbian book club reads A.S. Byatt's *The Matisse Stories*, free. 7pm. Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books, 2417 Larkspur Landing, Marin. 461-0171.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone, MC Karen Ripley. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Golden Gate Monuments

George Clapper's black-and-white photographs of monuments in Golden Gate Park. Thru 4/2. Veterans Bldg., 3rd fl., 401 Van Ness. 252-2593.

Mandy Patinkin

Broadway songman in concert, accompanied by Paul Ford. Thru 1/5, call for dates. \$20-55. 8pm. Orpheum Theatre, Hyde & Market. 776-1999.

Tues

Bell-Ringing Ceremony

Japanese tradition of striking a temple bell to welcome new year. Free with museum admission. Begins 11am. Gruhn Court, Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8879.

Blue & Gold Fleet

4 1/2-hr. buffet dinner/dance cruise. \$80. Departs Pier 39, West Marina, 8pm. Reservations required. 705-5555.

Claremont Hotel

Swing, jump blues & boogie, R&B, funky soul, dance parties, psychics corner. \$69. 8pm-2am. Claremont Hotel Resort, Oakland. (510) 549-8549.

Deborah Harry

Live performance at Club Universe & Pleasuredome. \$25 advance, \$30 door. 9pm-9am. 21&up. 177 Townsend. 974-6020.

Fairmont Hotel

Grand Ballroom: Godfather of Soul, James Brown; \$125. Venetian Room: Susan Anton, \$195. New Orleans Room: Chain of Fools, \$60. 950 Mason. 772-5000.

Fairy Butch New Year's

Women-only party: Maureen Brownsey, One Night Stand, strippers. \$10. 10pm. 139 8th St. 626-2337.

La Noche de Año Nuevo

Live performances by Angelina and Juan C. Faxas at Club Futura & Brinca. Latino appetizers, free champagne at



At the Asian Art Museum: the Japanese tradition of striking a temple bell to welcome the new year.

Holiday season up in flames: comedy sketches by *Nervous Laughter* at the Marsh Theater. See Friday.



midnight. \$25 advance, \$30. Doors 9:30pm. 18&up. 520 4th St. 2BR-INCA.

Living Sober Dance

New Year's Eve celebration hosted by gay and lesbian members of A.A. Al-Anon/A.A. mtg, 8pm. Dance, 9pm-1am. \$10-15. War Memorial Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 978-2478.

Marga Gomez

Comedian Gomez, plus dragapella beauty shop quartet *The Kinsey Sicks*. \$20. 8&10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Midnight Express

Funksters One Nation Underground, Vinyl, Superfuzz In New Year's Eve show, benefits Soccer in the Streets. \$30 advance, \$35 door. 8pm-2am. 21+over. 50 Oak. 979-3031.

New Wave Eve

Music from 1979 thru 80s, dance party. \$12. 21 and over. 9pm-2am. CW Saloon, 911 Folsom. 675-LOVE.

New Year's Concert

Community Music Center Orchestra's fifth annual concert features Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Tonight at 10pm, Wed. at 4pm. \$10. First Congregational Church, 495 Post. 647-6015.

Open House

Drop by to start New Year's Eve, no alcohol, free. 7-10pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Planet New Year Festival '97

Music, dance, global unity, to be broadcast live via Internet. \$30 advance, \$35 door. 8pm-7am. Kaiser Convention Ctr, 10 10th St., Oakland. 979-4543.

QTV

Gay and lesbian programming. Tues. at 7pm. Cable Channel 47. 956-1284.

Sappho—

"No Ordinary Housewife," a multimedia installation embracing Sappho's creative genius. Last day. Brava! women's bookstore, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. 369-3335.

SF New Year's Eve

Headliners Chris Isaak, Lyle Lovett, Los Lobos party on Embarcadero. \$85. 8pm. Hyatt Regency, 5 Embarcadero Center. (510) 762-BASS.

Tropical

Hosts Chablis and Tom ring in New Year with Hawaiian flavor. No cover. Doors 8pm: Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Will Durst

Political humorist presents satirical review of '96. \$15-25. 7:30&10pm. Cowell Theater, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-3683.

Wed

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue's holiday extravaganza shows, call for seasonal schedule. \$18-45. Xmas at 8pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Green. 421-4222.

Black-Eyed Pea Dinner

Men of All Colors Together hosts annual dinner, awards ceremony. \$15. 3pm. St. Lutheran, 152 Church. 675-0201.

New Year's Hike

Marin Bay Area Career Women's annual Mt. Tam hike on New Year's Day. Meet 10am. Call for info: 381-0980.

2001:

"A Space Odyssey," Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi classic. 1, 4&8pm. Castro Theatre, Castro at Market. 621-6120.

Thur

Beneath the Surface

Group show, paintings, sculpture, photography and works on paper, features Astrid, Suzanne Benton, Jeffrey Ketcham, more. By appointment thru 4/19. ArtHaus, 1053 Bush. 922-8219.

Exile

50 years of expressionist sculpture, exhibition opens. Mon.-Fri. thru 1/31. Gallery on the Rim, 333 3rd St. 543-7007.

Funny Girl

Debbie Gibson plays Fanny Brice in the Broadway musical, thru 1/12, call for dates. \$34-\$62.50. 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

Hall of Fame

Exhibition of art and artifacts from over 50 halls of fame, thru 2/23. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Historical Paintings

"Of the Great Battle of San Francisco: New Work" by Sandow Birk, thru 1/18. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

James Staggs

Oil paintings in exaggerated perspective, thru 1/12. Michael Thompson Gallery, 1 Sutter. 391-7795.

Jesse Allen

Paintings and prints of imaginary landscapes. Thru 1/4. Vorpall Gallery, 393 Grove. 397-9200.

Katharina Fritsch

Survey of works by German sculptor. Thru 3/9. SFMO-MA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Party

David Dillon's comedy: seven gay friends play "Facts and Fantasies." Wed.-Sun. extended thru 1/5, call for times. \$20-25. Xmas at 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy featuring the NY cast. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 2/16. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. \$25-38. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

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Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

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Debbie Gibson is Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*. See Thursday.

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Thanks for the memories - part 2

by Mister Marcus

Last week bar parties and private gatherings abounded, with everyone running around in Santa hats at Daddy's, the SF-Eagle, Polk Gulch, the Cinch, the Giraffe and the Edge, to name just a few. At the Castro Station, veteran bartender Neil Genson ended his 14-year stint on the boards with a joyous farewell ("Neil's Last Call") party on Thursday, Dec. 19. Neil even got a call from one of his customers now living in Washington, D.C., who remembered Neil's actual first night at the bar! Mr. Genson was reduced to tears he was so touched! We all wish him luck in his future endeavors.

The AIDS Emergency Fund Christmas Eve Dinner at the Green Room was well-attended as usual, and all over town, countless volunteers were on the serving lines Christmas Day, doling out edible goodies made possible by your generosity.

The last six months of 1996 were memorable, and here are only a few of the highlights:

July

Regional Mr. Drummer contests continued with Kyeth "Ky" Fitzgerald winning the Mid-Atlantic region at the Baltimore Eagle. The International Ms. Leather contest was staged in Philadelphia by Amy Marie Meek with a record 19 women vying for the title. Jill Carter of Willow Grove, Penn., won. The Castro Lions' annual leather benefit auction at the Eagle saw a big turnout and big bucks hauled in, with Tom Rodgers again doing the honors. The Phoenix Uniform Club presented a \$5,200 check to the AIDS Emergency Fund, proceeds from their Military/Uniform Ball in June. Onstage at the Eagle the same day, Loren Berthelson won the Leather Daddy XIV title over four other aspirants. In Denver, Rick Gusler won the Rocky Mountain Drummer title, and Mike DeNisco was chosen as the Drummer Boy. SMMILE's Dore Alley Fair drew some 5,000 people on one of the most beautiful days of the year.

August

In Hayward, Roger Luttrell won the Mr. Alameda Co. Leather title, and "Victoria" won the female counterpart. In Fort Lauderdale, Ed Ivey produced his first Mr. Florida Drummer contest with much success. Bill Masters, in his second try, won the Florida title, and that hot, hot Bill Karr was chosen Florida Drummer Boy. They added a Drummer Daddy title to this one, and Perry Echelberger ran away with it. Mark Ingham and Pat Brown won the Mr./Ms. Alameda Co. Cheeks & Chaps contest. They roasted Omar Moseley days before the Northern California Drummer contest, and Daddy's made a bus available to the event, held again in San Jose on one of the hottest days of the year. When it was all over, "Taurus" Webster took the title, and Jon Ayers was named the Drummer Boy.

Both AmFAR and the AEF



Season's Greetings from your hard-working leather title holders: (rear l-r) Mr. Northern California Drummer Taurus, Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia, SF Leather Daddy Lauren Berthelson, (front l-r) Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth Downey and Intl. Mr. Deaf Leather Daniel Sonnenfeld.

backed out of producing the Drummer contest for reasons known only to them, so the community rallied to continue Drummer Magazine's abused "child," and the result of everyone's input was evident in September. Philip Turner's "Leather Extravaganza" in "that house on the hill" was a smashing success and raised \$8,300 for the AEF! The Second Intl. Fantasy contest took place in Omaha, and Kevin

Watson of Albuquerque won it. Boy Toy Productions in Columbus, Ohio, took on the Great Lakes Drummer region with a splendid weekend which saw Jerry Leigh take the title at Herby's Bar. Taurus Webster relinquished his Mr. SF Drummer title after winning the Northern California title, and it was bestowed on runner-up Jeff Matthews.

September

On Labor Day, the annual Leather Daddy's Boy contest featured nine contestants, and another \$2,517 was raised for the AEF. When it was over, Joey Faria took the title. Former Dyke Daddy Skeeter Wildman staged a profitable "Let's Make a Deal" fundraiser at Daddy's, Don "Ho" Tse, Queen of the 38 Geary MUNI busline, was named Driver of the Month; Craig Foxx was named Mr. New England Drummer at the Boston Ramrod; Ken Rosetti was named Mr. Northeast Drummer at the L.U.R.E. in New York; and that same night, Kyle Brandon was named Mr. Southern California Drummer at the Faultline Bar in LA.

Leather Pride Week kicked off with Art Tomaszewski's annual Leather Pride Walk from Daddy's in the Castro to the SoMa's SF-Eagle. More big bucks (\$7,642) for the AEF, and by Sept. 23, leather mavens from around the world were arriving hourly. The basket auction by the Mr. Drummer contenders raised almost \$6,000 for the travel fund, with more bucks from the Fetish and Fantasy Ball. The press party was bulging at the seams; and leather/SM parties were going on

all over the place.

The Intl. Mr. Drummer Contest at Club Townsend was SRO; 11 regional winners competed. When it was all over, Mr. Southern California Drummer Kyle Brandon emerged the winner. Rocky Mountain Drummer Boy Mike DeNisco was named Intl. Drummer Boy. The next day, hundreds of thousands of leather people and their families attended the 13th Annual Folsom St. Fair, which later dispensed \$95,000 to charities.

October

The final showing of the AIDS Memorial Quilt took place in Washington with thousands of people on hand for a myriad of celebrations. I was honored to be asked to read names of departed friends. The Eagle staged a bike christening ceremony with champagne and "alternative" liquids splashing all over the place. The GDIs' "A Date at Minsky's" was memorable with gaming tables; Nova Lei & Co. really peed! Leather & Feathers at the Eagle was fun; the SPI Halloween in Civic Center was a smash success. Former IMs.L Blair held a successful fundraiser, and new IMs.L Jill Carter flew in and was suddenly mesmerized by our Queen Cougar!

November

The Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert staged its second annual "Sweatin' Bullets" weekend, and Long Beach's extremely handsome Mark McKenzie took the title. In Amsterdam, Fabrice van den Bossche of Paris won the Mr. Drummer Europe title. Bare Chest Calendar guys went to San Diego and signed/sold calendars at the San Diego Eagle. Bill Adams won the Mr. SF Bear title at the Lone Star. South Bay leather tribespeople staged the Mr./Ms. Santa Clara Co. Leather contest during a weekend that also included the South Bay Bear competition. Doug Johnson of Felton and Sharon Klienman of Milpitas won the titles, and Steve Hanson won the bear sash. Connie Francis came to the Eagle, and Cornelius Conboy auctioned off some of her personal items (\$2500). Steve Gaynes and Peter Fiske conducted a tour of the city's most notorious dungeons and raised \$3400. Eagle Bar manager Bob Bowling resigned to move to Long Beach.

Seattle's Cuff bar launched its franchise endeavors with a Cuff in Austin! The DC-Eagle celebrated its 25th anniversary, and Jeff Gilles won the Mr. DC-Eagle leather title; in New York, James Sterling won the Mr. NY Leathermaster title; and in Toronto, Robert Tomas was named Mr. Toronto Leather. Baltimore's leather contest yielded a winner, Rick Poloway, and Sarah Humble launched her new playpen for leather fun in Baltimore. Auto Erotica opened on 18th near Castro, and business is great!

December

And now we come full circle. The Santa Slave Auction at the Turf Club in Hayward by the Alameda Co. Leather Corps was a smashing success; Gary Virginia's Holiday Leather Brunch at Harvey's saw a great turnout; and the S/M Exchange event at the

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Dec. 26

Dating Game at Daddy's and beer bust from 2000 to 2300 to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Daddy Joseph Bean will be the main attraction!

Saturday, Dec. 28

Mr. SF Bear Bill Adams hosts a \$6 beer bust at the Lone Star, 1500-1900, benefiting PAWS. Bill is on the latest issue of *Bear Magazine*, and he'll be signing it for \$10 a throw.

The 15 Association's monthly play party, 2100 to 0200. \$10, BYOB. You must accompany your guests. Call 673-0452 for invitation and location. NFL Wild Card Playoffs all weekend; at my deadline, the teams who made it were not yet determined.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

It's New Year's Eve! Here are just some of the events: Every bar in town will be celebrating with hats, horns, confetti, champagne and all your booze buddies. Deborah Harry is at Pleasuredome (\$15 advance/\$30 at door). Call 974-6020 to charge to your plastic. At Blow Buddies, it's Suck Off '97; doors open from 2200 to 0400!

¡La Noche de Año Nuevo! featuring Angelina at 420 4th (at Bryant), 2130-0400. Produced by Futura and Brinca — a wild Latino event. Tix are \$25 advance at Citizen and Wild Card/\$30 door.

Black & Blue Ball at The Cuff in Seattle. In Los Angeles, the Faultline's "Pre-Sold" celebration is a private affair, but you can call 213/660-0889. In Baltimore, a \$100 donation gets you into The House Studio (a new fetish and fantasy play space)

for cocktails, elegant buffet, champagne, etc. to benefit the travel fund of IMS.L Jill Carter.

Sunday, Jan. 5

The rest of the '97 Bare Chest Calendar men get auctioned off for dinner dates at the Eagle beer bust, with Lenny Broberg doing the honors. Mr. December Alex Hill volunteered to be auctioned off again because Mr. June from Atlanta can't be here! Wow!

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Esteemed author Joseph Bean will be reading from and signing his new book, *Leathersex: Questions and Answers*, at A Different Light from 1930.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Be the first to get doused at Wet Wednesday's Golden Shower Buddies, 933 Harrison. Doors open from 2000 to 2200. Call 512-PISS for the dripping details.

Thursday, Jan. 9

Be the first basket of the year at The Edge Basket Contest for 1997. Win big \$ plus photo session with the reclusive Joe Balducci.

Butt-rageous monthly contest by Leather Daddy Loren at Daddy's with a \$6 beer bust, raffle tickets and prizes.

Thursday, Jan. 16

Starting all over again! Mr. January 1998 Bare Chest Contest at the SF-Eagle. Win \$100. Starts at 2100. Surprise judges. Show those nipples hard!

Women's Bldg. was well-attended, too. At least five bike clubs are staging toy drives/beer busts for kids, as are the Bears of SF. Golden State Peace Officers had a fun beer bust/auction with a huge crowd at the Eagle. Leather Discussion group, Harvey Milk Insti-

tute and Lou Duff's rope classes are enlightening newcomers and veterans alike with their sessions, and BOSF is gearing up for Bear Rendezvous in February.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this column these past months with photos and facts. es-

pecially Tim Wong, Vern Stewart, Frank Nowicki, Joe Gallagher, Sarah Humble, Zak Topor, Evert Dijkema and Shawn Farnsworth. From where I'm dishing, oops, standing, the year ahead looks promising indeed. Have a wonderful New Year's Eve experience. ▼

South of the border safari

by Sweet Lips

A fabulous time was had by all in sunny Puerto Vallarta! From the moment we arrived at the Hotel Posada de Roger, it was non-stop fun from morning into the wee hours. In fact, I was so busy imbibing the local atmosphere, I never actually made it to the beach, and my teeny-weeny bikini never saw the light of day. So I didn't come back with a tan but with lots of great stories instead — if only I could remember them!

The Hotel Posada de Roger has a superb restaurant and bar, El Tucan, which is run by the comely Federico Garcia. El Tucan boasts a lovely breakfast and luncheon menu plus a divine waiter, Jorge Luis. The bartender, Concho, was so pleasant and cute that I felt no need to stir from my stool for the duration of the trip. Needless to say, Barton and I had *beaucoup* screwdrivers before breakfast and after, all served by Concho's very capable — and quite massive — hands.

Within easy stumbling distance just across the street is the Adobe Restaurant, open only for dinner. The food has a continental flair and was quite flawless. The owner, a young stunner named Rudolfo Chaparena-Swiss (doesn't that just roll off the tongue!), is exceedingly friendly and helpful, as was the darling bartender, Enrique Niño, who drinks acted like a depth charge on my liver. Zowie! Be sure to check out the patio when you're in an *al fresco* kind of mood.



Sweet Lips, Bella, Michelle, and José at Lips' 74th Birthday Bash.

Another favorite hangout of mine on my little safari was the Le Bistro Jazz Cafe, a sensational restaurant on the river with a garden-like ambiance, fine food, and classical piano at lunch and jazz at dinner. Of the "sugerencias especiales" ("special suggestions" to the monolingual among you), I adored the Camarones Coco Royal (I am a czarina, after all), which were jumbo blue shrimp, dipped and rolled in coconut batter and served with a yellow curry sauce — the chef's specialty and the perfect complement to a brace of Singapore Slings.

Of course, as is my wont, I've saved the best for last: the Club Paco Paco, run by Howard L. Roy, the eponymous Paco and a terrific staff (particularly Carlos at the rooftop patio bar). This three-story, four-bar complex features a disco and showroom on the first floor, an extremely popular bar and pool (as in billiards) area on the second level, and a rooftop patio bar on the third with breathtaking views of Puerto Vallarta and the aforementioned Carlos. Not to be missed on the main floor is another bar, Paco's Ranch, a men's

bar replete with male strippers who take it all off except for their boots. My companions couldn't stand up for a while after these young lovelies had finished performing without embarrassing themselves! Come to think of it, they couldn't stand up at all!

We were treated like royalty (natch!) everywhere we went, and people couldn't have been nicer. Maybe next time I'll even get a little sand in my thong.

Please mark on your calendars that the wonderful Empress Bella of Bella's World Florist on Castro Street fame will be hosting a special birthday party for Mad Mame of Portland on New Year's Day at Daddy's.

Liplash: To a certain goon from Guerneville — Yes, my quarter century of service *does* include certain times when I was, shall we say, under the weather. How kind of you to inquire. And what have you done for the community lately, dear, except spew your spineless venom on your betters? Just wondering. Kisses.

And so, gentle readers, I must bid you and 1996 farewell. However, we will certainly meet up again in these pages and no doubt other nooks and crannies soon. Until then, have a very Merry Christmas and the most splendid New Year imaginable. ▼

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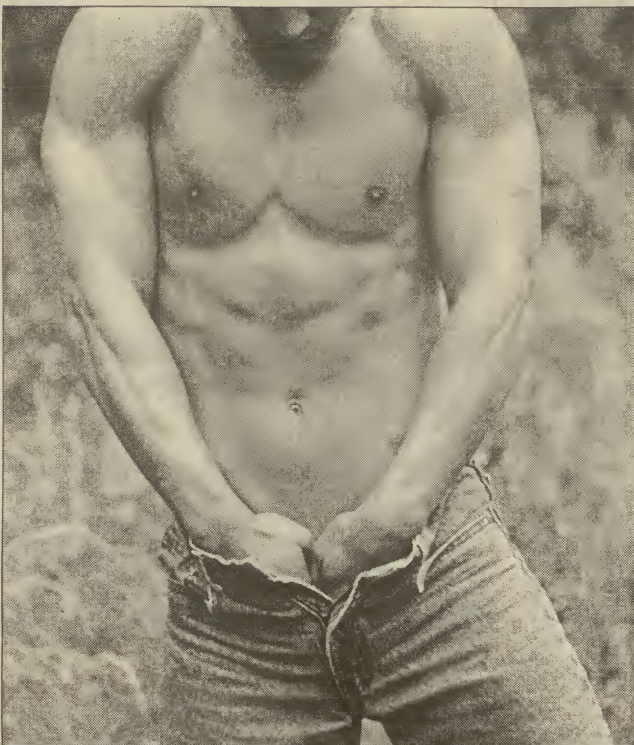
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PARTING GLANCES

Jay 11/1 Powerhouse

Met you @ Powerhouse on Fri night. Me: 32, Asian, 5'11", smooth, leather. You: full leather, short blond hair, Harley Davidson T-shirt, hanging out w/Asian guy. Asked me about 3-way. Would love a 2-way. Pls call. S 3901.

Lone Star-Sun Night 11/24

You: brown hair, goatee, jacket, Beatles T-shirt, a smile that stops traffic. Me: brown hair, black shirt, beard, boots, hoping I can make that smile reappear. Let's see-call me. S 3902.

Eros Sun 11/17 Lou

We exchanged #'s. I lost yours. I keep thinking of your intricate tattoos, your arms around me would love to touch you again. Leo. S 3903.

New Orleans Bald Guy In Town

We met Nov. 25 @M at F.Market & you walked down Battery St., carrying sunflowers. Kick back! I want to worship you. Ride me? Of course! S 3904.

11/29 Star Trek 5:30 Showing

Northgate Mall. You had a beautiful smile, waited for me in the lobby. I wore a plaid flannel shirt, w/friends, shy. I hope you see this! Call me. S 4001.

Harvey Milk Opera Sat 11/30

You sat four seats to my left. Saw you out side on that intermissions. Would love to meet you for coffee or drinks or more. S 4002.

You Hot Dude In Green Shorts

White Jeep w/dog inside 11/22 at Berkeley bookstore. I'm older guy w/glasses, I have crush on you. Let's meet! I have many movies. S 4003.

Mark At Eros, Nov. 30

I liked your eyes, you liked the openness. Please call, Mark. S 4004.

Triple Black Threat

Black Range Rover, black sunglasses, black cocker spaniel! I waved you nodded on Castro, want to run my fingers through your hairy chest. Please call UR so hot! S 4005.

Steve From Sac 11/23 Universe

You Latin?, in the funeral business, went to the white party in Miami. Me: Asian w/friends. We danced all night. Thanks for all your help. Call me. S 4006.

Mr. Jaguar

Millbrae area east over 101; 11/29, noon-ish? I was in delivery van; you in silver Jaguar. We both fashioned mustaches. Wow! May I take you out to lunch sometime. S 4007.

Muni Car Named Desire

Dec. 3, between 5:30 and 6 PM. Crowded Muni train. We caught each others eye, both got off at Castro. I enjoyed our chat while walking to 18th. Try again? S 4101.

Troy Of Noe Valley

Finally spoke with you at Badlands, gave you my card. You are sexy, make my x-mas, give me a call, thought there was some interest??? S 4102.

Donut Shop 5th & Harrison 12/6

11:45 PM. Hey hunk. You were inside when I walked in & we kept on looking at each other, then while I was out in front & you drove off. We still were looking. I was the cute, stoic, bitchy guy in the gray and black shirt, black pants. I really wished we could have met. S 4103.

Bruce!

Saturday Dec. 7, evening, Market Street gym. We talked briefly, you were waiting for a friend, coffee? How's your back? Call! -R. S 4104.

Mark From Berkeley Sat 12/7

We met at Body Workshop at RKD. Wish I would have given you my number. I'd enjoy talking & getting together again. Give me a call. Robert. S 4105.

Troy Of Napa

Please contact Ian. S 4106.

Chris On Corbett At Universe

12/7. I can't wait to get my paws on you again. Bulldog. S 4107.

Saw U on Muni Church/Powell

You cute, olive cap, jacket. Me: burgundy/black coat, black spiked hair. We exchanged glances then long looks. Would like to meet you, friends? Definite electricity between us. S 4108.

Thai Tony Posed W/Cowboy Hat

Can't wait for next yr. Kaiser flu shot to see you again. Me: big guy w/red Toyota. Love to know you better. S 4109.

Eric At My Place

You said I looked "really fine." Delightful conversation. You lied about returning. I waited, I'm pissed but you were interesting and enticing. Let's talk. Maybe try again. Oakland Al. S 4246.

Joe From Castro Street

You read homer on the beach in Puerto Vallarta. Met on the beach in November 16th I lost you. Looked everywhere. Like to get to know you. Call me. Frank. S 4202.

Kyle

You were moving Parsons Engineering out of their 1301 Marina Village parking offices December 13th. We spoke at the elevator. You're beautiful, charming. Let's talk. S 4247.

Berkeley 12/3

James of Bernal Heights I goofed and did not return, tired and confused, not usually so socially malapropos, another chance? Dinner? Coffee? S 4203.

Mahj

Great Green x-mas ball nice meeting u please call B4 Dec 31st. Scary Gary. S 4205.

Walgreen's Pharmacy on 18th

12/12/96. You, tall mustache, handsome, smiling asked for information. Me: tall, black, earrings. We must meet. Please contact. S 4204.

Mark @ Tearoom 12/4

You burn hair and goatee. You gave an incredible blow job for hr. Lets get together soon. Randy. S 4201.

Universe 12/14

Rob, you asked me to dance. We talked a while. Lost you when you went to call your friend. Please call, Kevin. S 4248.

Peets On Market 12/15-Twice

I wore gray v-neck t-shirt. Got shy & didn't give you my card. I'd still like to. Pls call. S 4249.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

ISO Professional HIV+ Man

Attractive, Prof., 40's, HIV+, would like to meet other HIV+ professional men, 40+, for dating or possible relationship. S 3905.

I Want That Special Someone

Friendship, then relationship. Seeking handsome, trim, masculine GYM, 25+, intelligent, NS, outgoing. Me: GYM, 29, 5'10", trim, goatee, handsome, great smile; enjoy arts, animals, outdoors, reading—wanting right relationship w/right man. S 3906.

Got Milk?

Correction, got cream? Will suck you beautifully for the big low. Yummier even than big, uncultured cheery dicks. The more you shoot the better! Lemme on down! S 3907.

Hot Hungry Bottom W/Great Ass

Seeks slim, hung, tops who love using tits & ass on smaller (5'3") muscular, eager bottom. Healthy, HIV+, 50 w/shaved head, goatee. Sharing, sex, gum, movies, LTR? S 3908.

Hugs & Kisses Come First

My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: GYM, 46, 6'5", 250#, husky build. You: attrac, GYM, 21-35, slim, smooth, moderate body hair, nice buns. Sex: as massage, erotic spanking, love to top. S 4018.

Palo Alto I Need A Man
Sweet, 20yo, light Latino, Brn/Blu, slim, spontaneous, wants masculine, HIV-, Latin/Asian, 20-35, cute and fun to be with. Interested? Let's talk! S 4217.

Attract WM Lkng For BM or LM
HIV+, healthy male. Likes to stay in shape, go places & have good sex. Looking for one who is interested in conversation & whatever else happens. Not over 35. S 3910.

Still Seeking Lifemate!

I'm a tall, handsome, loving, energetic, & mature 36 yo, professional artist, butch, bottom, HIV+, healthy. UB similar, butch, top, hairy, horny & passionate. Match + Effort = Bliss! S 3911.

Handsome Muscular Italian

38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV-, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. S 3912.

Short Old Men Need Love Too

Preferably w/a masculine, HIV-, easy going guy (or married couple) w/a very large cock. I'm 49, 5'6", 150#, not bad looking, and oral. S 3913.

Affectionate Cuddler Nds Same

Muscular, tattooed, pierced, 31yo, HIV+, man looking for masculine guy tattooed, pierced, shaved head, facial hair, 30 to 40, into outdoors, music, art, motorcycles, & queer generation. ISO LTR. I'm Filipino, German, 5'11", good shape, good looks, you be too. S 3914.

Steve Pipe

Black male, HIV-, needs White male, 50-70 to worship & suck his stove pipe dick. Married males A+ S 3915.

GWM Sks Life Partner SF/N. Bay

This shy, 42, 5'10", 160#, seeking LTR. Looking for outgoing, dominant man, 35-45. Both of us are helpless romantics, giving & caring. HIV-, NS, LTR drink. S 3916.

Masculine & Handsome

GWM, outgoing, 40's, 6'1", 175#, brn/blu seeks muscular, rugged, spirited non uniformist who is looking for an anchor. S 3917.

Good Things Securely Wrapped

Santa Rosa GWM, 6', 41, seeks patient, stable, honest man for friendship, dating, eventual LTR. You're good at peeling layers. S 3918.

Black/Latin Don Juan Wanted

GWM over 50, heavy set, 6', NS/ND, needs sex & romance w/PGB/LAM over 35, NS, ND who likes to fuck & be orally serviced. Sincere, discreet only. S 3919.

ISO 30's Mid 40's Masculine

LA based gbm, 41, working often in SF seeks new friends w/mutual interest in symphony, opera, new music, photography. Conversational a must. Middle-Eastern, German, Hispanic A+. S 3920.

HIV+ Total Top Wanted

Great Bay Bottom, HIV+, 34, 6', 180#, blonde, handsome, needs big brother/Dad type boyfriend. LTR w/Capricorn or Virgo—Latin or darker preferred. S 3921.

Bright Eyes Seeking Asian

Genuine, nice GWM seeks slim, smooth, clean-shaven Asian for companionship during the holidays & always. I'm 39, 6', 175#, brown/hazel. Kind, loving, caring, honest, affectionate. S 4008.

Nice Guy Seeks Same

Nice looking 53, GWM, HIV-, NS, 5'8", 162#, clean-cut, personable, educated, romantic, loving & fun. Seeks special GWM (36-48). Be honest, know how to communicate & have a heart. S 4009.

San Jose GWM For GAM

Handsome, healthy, downtown dwelling, dark-haired, GWM, youthful, 40, 5'9", 215#, seeks live in boyfriend who's sincere, NS, & affectionate. Enjoy movies, theater, exercise, ethnic food. Let's explore this! S 4010.

Handsome P02 Italian Top

Seeks Caucasian or Latino HIV+ guys, 20-40. I'm 36, 6'2", 195#, nice shape, w/white hair & hands. I like massage, good books, good wine, & bad boys. S 4011.

Body Positive! HIV+ Social

Best known for our well attended monthly socials, we've added lots of other fun activities for HIV+ gay men. A great alternative to the bar scene. S 4012.

Artist Activist Muscular Daddy

Seeks intelligent, humorous, passionate boy. Our passion runs from spanking to cuddling. We are asymptomatic. We play Daddy boy, but are equal. The sun, the moon, the stars. S 4013.

Zesty Bookworm Seeks Boyfriend

My tales might excite you, my warmth enliven you & my wit enrapture you. I am 44, tall, hairy, assertive & strong. Mutual nourishment awaits. S 4014.

Smooth Blond Seeks Hairy Blond

43 yrs, lite blond, blue eyes, solid, tan, attractive, HIV-, romantic, regular guy. Live in EB, let's set up a date. Make tender love making. S 4015.

We Might Like Each Other!

Brazilian, 24 yo, fun, passionate, just moved to SF. Seeks friend poss. lover, 20-40 yo. We could have coffee & see what happens next. S 4016.

Out of My League

36 yo GWM, 5'11", 200#. I need my hot velvet doughnut hole used like a hot sweaty pig in heat or just someone to talk to & cuddle. Your choice. S 4017.

All I Want For X-mas Is You!

You are young and desirable. I am not so young, but still desirable. You can be any race. (Spanish Speaking a+) I live in the South Bay. S 4208.

Slim 30 Years Old Asian

Asian, 29, 6', 170#, goodlooking & well built, mature w/a sense of humor. Look forward to hearing from you. S 4255.

Normal Guy

Sweet, 20yo, light Latino, Brn/Blu, slim, spontaneous, wants masculine, HIV-, Latin/Asian, 20-35, cute and fun to be with. Interested? Let's talk! S 4217.

Daddy Seeks Son

Stocky white "Daddy" 51, wants cut/slim "son/lover" 18 to 29. Any race or hand-capped OK. I just want someone to care about. S 4020.

Want Small Man With Big Heart

GWM, 49, 6', 175#, HIV+, gldngk & healthy, sexually versatile & adventurous. Looking for short, slim man w/big open heart. Age & race not as important as spirituality & intellect. S 4021.

Sex Slave Companion

GWM, 52, 5'7", 150#, masculine top, HIV-, NS. You need to suck, fuck, serve, belong between 25-40. Prefer quiet, serious passive, in-shape, intellectual type. Leather A+. S 4022.

You Want This

Sexy, 28, sweet caramel, GM, 5'10", 165# & very fit. Looking for passionate, attractive, masculine Latinos & African-Americans, 25-35 for friendship & erotic. S 4110.

Midwest To Bay GWM 6'2", 185#

45, HIV-, brbl, stable, masculine, muscular. Likes outdoors, massage, mostly bottom (bb). Spiritually/emotionally avail. Seeks Mexican/Chicano/Latin top, 40-50, for possible LTR. Tex-Mex ++. S 4111.

Seeking GBM/GHM For LTR

GWM, 43, 6', 150 lb., beard, HIV-, professional, many interests, affectionate, versatile seeks similar GBM/GHM to explore serious fun, romance, sexual intimacy & LTR. Facial hair A+. S 4112.

Submissive

30 yo, grad student seeks dominant, masculine man, I'm 5'9", 175 lb., HIV-, NS. Prefer same. Looking for emotionally & financially stable man who can take charge without being overbearing. S 4113.

Sexy Handsome Dad Sks Loverboy

GWM, 43, 6', 175#, very sexy body, HIV-, pretty penis unit, nifty persona, very humorous, seeks very, very cute young man (30's) with nice persona, hot body/dick/butt for stud service & possible dating. S 4114.

Seeking Asian Top Mostly

GWM seeks healthy dependable Asian stud who spans & is condom crazy. A caring person while perpetually & eternally horny. Witty & humorous too. S 4115.

Rescue Me!

32 yr old closeted bodybuilder, very sexy, attractive, athletic, 5'11", 195#, brn/blu seeks very secure male to show me finer things in life willing to relocate. S 4116.

River Phoenix Incarnation

Seeks intelligent lover for political & spiritual social work in community. Do it for the World now. S 4117.

HIV GBM Over 35, 5'10", 175#

Nice trim body into 1 to 1 relationships. You 30-45, lean or thin build must be physically fit, no bear types please! Sorry, I am looking for someone who needs to be needed like me! S 4119.

Lking 4 Compatible Life Partner

Me: stable, warm, enjoy challenges of life. 41 yr, brn/blu, 5'9", 165#, not Adonis but still cute. Butch look, 35-50 yr preferred. S 4120.

Some Guys Are Fussy

About who they let suck their dicks. So I'll send a photo. Leave your address when you call. If you approve, down I go to savor/swallow your loads! S 4206.

Respect Yourself

Romantic, stocky, GWM, 5'8", 250#, brown hair/eyes, long eyelashes, boyish, responsible. Average sized GWM who can respect me as much I'll respect him. S 4207.

Have Run One Recent Ad & Have

Met many good guys. No chemistry. Hot, HIV+, over 40, gym toned, funny, sensual. Seeks similar to date. 30-48. S 4209.

Ensnare Ls Limits?!

155#, blonde, HIV-, seeks honest, monogamous, loving, GLM, 28-36 for friendship. Let's celebrate the joys of 1997 together! absolutamente infinito. S 4210.

Bearish Big Brother

Young GAM, 5'6", 118#, seeks sincere GWM 4 friends or more. Prefer hairy, stocky, caring, honest. SF+. Must be HIV-. S 4212.

Nice Guy Skng Nice Guy

GWM, 40's 6', 185#, brbl, HIV-, professional, relationship oriented, fun, good-looking ex-midwesterner looking for grounded attractive GWM/GAM 30's in-shape who seeks LTR. S 4213.

Passionate-Romantic Asian Male

Sought by prime Italian male for companionship, romantic/passionate interludes, travel companion. Be sincere and free of prejudices. Willing to love and be loved. S 4214.

Slim Gldng Hip Retired Guy

Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV-, seeks similar slim 50+ facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Safe only! S 4215.

Dating For Fun & Pleasure

Erotic Educator & sex worker (50, 5'10", 170#, fit, versatile) seeks men to date, age 30-50, height & weight proportionate. N/S, N/D. S 4216.

Friend Wanted

Seeking GWM, 28-45 yrs who enjoys music, movies & quality fun time. I'm Asian, 29, 6', 170#, goodlooking & well built, mature w/a sense of humor. Look forward to hearing from you. S 4255.

I Want A Guy!

Sweet, 20yo, light Latino, Brn/Blu, slim, spontaneous, wants masculine, HIV-, Latin/Asian, 20-35, cute and fun to be with. Interested? Let's talk! S 4217.

Attractive Latino 31

5'7", 145#, dark features, mustache, goatee, hard core Latin looks, HIV-. Seeking whited or Latinos 25-35 for friendship maybe LTR. S 4218.

Walking On The Beach

Kissing under the moonlight, sharing a bottle of wine together, cuddling on a Saturday morning, these are a few of my favorite things. GWM seeks GLM for romance and ? S 4219.

Small Build GWM Bttm Wntd By

GAM for friendship poss LTR. HIV-, healthy, NS/ND, light alcohol OK. I'm kind, thoughtful, warm & caring. Enjoy fun on reg basis. Reel oriented, passionate, serious only pls. S 4220.

Chubby/Daddy/Teddy/Grizzly

Bare-Bear, 49, 6', 252, short hair, beard, stache. Hairy chest. 6' cut. Versatile. Vanilla & affection to light kink. You: Younger than I, trim and easy to the eyes. S 4221.

Rare GAM Born In Shanghai

Attractive 48, looks 30ish, 5'9", 150#, toned hot body. Loves music of Philly, jazz & art of Irving Norman. Seeks GM to date, prefer 28-48, sexy, very fit & open minded. S 4250.

Mr. Martha Stewart Needs Lover

Give It Up To A Hunk

You know that your mouth & ass are there to satisfy your strong musclemans. Thinking about this handsome, Hawaiian, hunk, 35, well-built body, slamming your butt makes your blood boil/hungry hole twitch. S 3931.

Hung Black Topman/44/5'9"/180#
Recently banged a sexy Hispanic, bottom man & now wants more. Black or brown is beautiful. Oakland on top of Mexico? Let's do it. Gracias. S 3932.

Fantasy Unifirms

I'm looking to have my all time fantasy come true. We'ller CHP or Police or firemen. Be 30-45, HIV-, I'm 6'2", 220#, 33yrs, HIV- & willing to please. S 3933.

Black Tops Wanted

38, slim, smooth body w/light boy pussy wants to pleasure black tops at your place. My step-dad taught me to appreciate dark meat. Let me enjoy yours. S 3934.

Paite Alto Asian Cocksucker ISO
White cock within the Penisula by 38 yo, 5'11", 180#, blk hair, tan eyed Filipino. 7" + above & thick need to respond. S 3935.

Bottom Boy Looking For Top Man
Me: GWM, 20 yo, thin, in-shape, 5'10", 145#, br/blu, gldking, nice fuckable ass, likes long fucking sessions. You: GWM, 24-40, muscular, masculine, big cut dick, likes to fuck ass long/hard. S 3936.

Hot Nasty Boys

4 long intense sessions of butt play. UB: GWM/GLM, 25-35 yo, clean shaven, good shape, ready to spread 'em. Me: hard top, good shape, GWM, 5'6", 140#, 40 yo. Do it now! S 3937.

Trim & Muscular Topman

B/blu, 5'9", 150#, 50 yo, needs service by hot mouth & wicked tongue on his big, stiff, 8"x6", uncult & loaded cock. Any age. S 4025.

Young Men HIV- Wanted

Raunchy 55 yr old, dirty Mexican, ISO young men to get down & dirty with. If you are of legal age, what's stopping you? S 4026.

Black Males & Men of Color

BM, masculine, 6', 205#, fit, professional, very well hung, clean, HIV-. Seeks similar male, attractive, beefy butt, well hung, big round bubble butt, thick legs, hot times. S 4027.

Cock Like A Teenager...

Older man, fully bi-sexual, has firm erect cock, courtesy his urologist. Yours can too. Talk or play, Upper Haight. S 4028.

Mission: Impossibly Sexy

Mr. Phelps, you must find a thin, smooth, uncult, passionate kissing/cooking seeking Latino man for 3000+ hairy WM. Mission area a plus. This tape will... S 4029.

Erotic Full Body Massage

For boys, 18-24, skinny/smooth, 5'9" & shorter. No facial hair. I am an oral expert. S 4030.

Can You Piss With A Hard-On?

My fantasy-sucking your hard cock while you turn your piss on & off. Me: in-shape, attractive, WM, 40's. You must be in shape, attractive, WM, kick back be serviced. S 4031.

Pre Cum Yum-Yum Thirsty

You: in-shape, WM, kick back, hard cock, oozing, moderate/heavy pre-cum drip, tasty. Me: in-shape, WM, thirsty cocksucker, lips patiently/languidly/thankfully sucking juice out of your piss slit. S 4032.

East Bay Frolicking

WM, 34, 5'11", 175#, seeking men in area for frolicking between the sheets. Prefer men of color, 26-35, but if you're hot, why not? S 4033.

Versatile cub into Bathroom Sex
Sex in the shower, bathrobe (vanilla) & kinky stuff. Like WS, toilets (no scat), enemas & more. Singles & couples. Me: 28, br/blu, 5'10", 200#, hairy 7 handsome. Call now. S 4034.

Wanted: Big Hairy Bubble Butt
Versatile WM, 5'11", well built, hung bull, needs cau men, 20-30's, well built w/hairy bubble butt to eat & fuck. S 4035.

I Wanna Suck Your Butt
Italian slut, 43, 6', 190#, goatie, wants to bury my tongue up your hot, clean butt. Late night sex in the Castro. Call & get off to work. S 4036.

Asian Athletes Wanted
If not Asian athlete, need not reply. Looking for young Asian athletes, muscular, well-toned, & love sports. S 4037.

Water Sports
Water sports anyone? I'm HIV-, muscular, GWM, 5'3", 145#, 34 yo. Seeking HIV-, BJ & drinking buddies. Prefer hairy, muscular, non-Asian men, 20-35 yo. No rimming, fucking ND, or SM. S 4038.

Bareback Bottom
Into taking it up the ass. Horny, promiscuous, poz. 44, tall, trim, stache & goatie. S 4039.

Husky Hispanic Bottom Wanted
For black E. Bay top man, 42, 5'10", 180#. No beauty, but I have a sweet donkey dong. All races welcome, it tall, husky, masculine, muscled. Direct phone required. S 4040.

Sex & More Offered Here
If you are top or just curious, aged 18 to 55 & any race from Asian to Black & beyond, call this 47 yo, intelligent, attractive Caucasian. You'll like it. S 4041.

Let's Wrestle
Muscular, handsome GWM seeks others turned on by wrestling. Open to all skill levels & fantasies. No heavy roughing-in. Just good, clean sweaty fun. Go ahead & call—you won't be disappointed. S 4124.

AI Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucked off. Prefer trim, mature, no recuperation. S 4042.

Men Over 55

Where are all the older men at? We need sex too. I'm 56, 5'2", 120#, 7", hot tight ass. Need to be sucked, fucked & FF, work my balls hard & slow. I also love to please. Race unimportant. N. Bay to SF. S 4043.

Santa I Want A Stud 4 Xmas
Not the "Giddy-up kind either! Very fit 'n fun, don't miss my chimney! Milk 'n cookies are waiting as a bribe! S 4044.

Exotic, Young, Cute, Hung
Shaved head, artist. New in town. Looking for fun companion. S 4045.

Steven-Your Mess to E. Bay Dad
Phone # incomplete, you sound hot, try again. Jim. S 4046.

Come Over & Fuck Me
WM, 30, 5'10", 190 lb, blonde/blue, muscle hunk wants gldking, masculine men to pump me anytime. S 4047.

Anus Madness
Goodlooking man seeks hungry hands to search & plunge my white bubble. Sink your hand & arm into juicy deep hot flesh. S 4048.

Third Times A Charm
GWM w/LTR, 40, Italian, hairy, hung, in-shape "top" s/similar masculine, GWM "bottom" for safe hot sexual adventures. Flexible schedule. Hairy A+++. S 4049.

Blue Collar Buddy
Landslapper 30's, gldking, smart, affectionate, kinky ISO handyman, 30's-40's, playful, submissive, sweaty, oral. S 4050.

E. Bay Party Boys Under 30 For
Oral service & more. WM, 27, seeks boys in E. Bay to party, kick back, brothers, friends, skinheads, skaters, punks, stoners A+. I'll drain your nuts. Satisfaction guaranteed. S 4051.

Couple Seeks Asian
GWM, HIV-, 40's, attractive, seeks Asian for hot, passionate times. We're eager to please. S 4052.

Thin Muscle Boy Hot Ass
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, 37, 185#, 6'1", seeks boyfriends, 18-45, with hard body & tight, muscular, non-fat butts for plowing with my 8" dick. S 4122.

Latin And Black Men
GWM, 42, submissive bottom, 6'2", attractive. Has deep throat, ass for your pleasure. Regular sexual sessions. Waiting for your call! S 4123.

Big Fat White Guy Expertly
Services height/weight proportioned Mexican & Brazilian studs at my Civic Center apartment. The best, deepest throat! Rectro-pretation discouraged. Kick back. S 4125.

Horny Masculine Handsome 43
You are 35-50, butch, good shape, drug free, for fun times, massage, oral, rimming, safe. S 4126.

Dominant Top
Who is middle-aged & experienced is available for gay or bisexual GWM, 20-45 bottom. S 4127.

Oral Pleasure
Seeking GM under 45 in need of oral satisfaction. Be HIV-, disease/drug free. Let me help relieve a little stress in your life. Call & smile today! S 4128.

Here Is My Fantasy. I Lay Down
Naked. You walk in (door unlock) you grease my man's hole & fuck me real good. GBM are most welcome. S 4129.

BM Into Butch Bottom & More
I'm into butch, Mexican, Latin brother to kick it with. Let's talk. Be for real, dude. Fetishists cool! S 4130.

Sensual Erotic Men's Group
Looking for a few good men. Sensitive, nurturing, safe & yet able to enjoy open masculine erotic group play. S 4131.

Asian Seeks Asians
Asian 29 yo, 5'9", 115#, seeks similar Asian guys who are slim & short for fun. Uncult & hairy a plus (hairy balls & ass). Let's have some hot raunchy fun. S 4132.

I'm Looking For The Biggest
Cocks in SF. I'll do anything you want if it's 10" or more. Leave a description. S 4224.

ISO HIV+ GWM Top
Healthy HIV+, GBM, submissive bottom seeks HIV+ GWM under 45. I'm 6 ft, 37, 180#. How about a little holiday madness. S 4133.

Seeking Mature Gents
Looking for hot sex with GWM up to 65 with thick cock & a wicked streak. I'm HIV- & NS. UB2. S 4134.

Musclebar Daddy Bottom
Beefy, hairy stud, HIV+, needs horse hung top to feed my hot mouth & plow my tight muscle butt. Muscles/uncult A+. Hung big thick a must. S 4135.

No Fur—No Fun
GWM, bro/bro, goatie, 40+ yrs, in shape, 5'7", 145#, lightly furry chest. On the hunt for, in shape GWM, 30+, masculine, mustached, fur covered man for fun. Sandy bro-blond A+++. S 4136.

Asian Seeking Bareback Sex
Skinny Asian in SF, 29 yr old, seeks other Asians, white & Latinos into hot raw & bareback sex on a regular basis, group sex welcomed. Skinny or slim boys most needed. S 4137.

Oversexed Elf Looking For Santa
Well-hung, sexy elf, 5'8", 130#, looking for sexy, well-hung top to give me that really big present. Let me jingle your balls! S 4138.

Very Oral Fun
GWM, bro/bro, goatie, 40+ yrs, in shape, 5'7", 145#, lightly furry chest. On the hunt for, in shape GWM, 30+, masculine, mustached, fur covered man for fun. Sandy bro-blond A+++. S 4136.

Raunchy Young Studs
Dominant, under 30, cute, sexy, wanting to get serviced then get real raunchy for us to share some fantasies with me, bring a buddy! S 4222.

Sweaty Sex Wntd By Gym Latin
Large dominant, Roman versatile. Dig oral sex, porno, lock straps and more with big dicks. 5'7", 155#, Call anytime. Lets mess around. S 4223.

Serious Cock Sucker
47, GWM, HIV-, seeks serious cocks 8" or better, cut or uncult. For great laid back service. Any race, age, serious only. Downtown SF. S 4225.

East Bay Cumeater
Hot, sexy, Spanish guy love to swallow loads. Recip OK but not required. Uncult a+. Must be clean, discreet. East Bay in S 4226.

What's It All About?
Very BiWM, 33, goodlooking, in shape, HIV-, seeking similar GWM under 40 who's patient and sincere to take me by the? And show me what it's about. S 4227.

Ride On My Bushy Mustache
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, br/blu, 39. You: hot and ready. S 4228.

Latino Wanted...
GWM 27, 150#, swimmers build, French/German, green eyes, seeking Latino playmate. S 4229.

Sexual Adventure
Gldking, 33, br/blu, 5'7", hot hungry bottom, GWM, cute, in good shape, hairy chest, like jockstraps, leather & masculine men. S 4230.

Tight Bubble Butt
Needs a man with a big hard dick to plow me long and hard. I'm 26yo, 5'7", 140#, mustache, goatie, shaved head & balls. S 4231.

San Jose Hung, Hard Bodied Only
Straight acting, 34yo locker. 5'8", 145#, 29" waist, 7" x 5" cut, shave hot hole & balls squeaky clean and hot for blacks, Latinos etc. Lets party. Bring a buddy. S 4232.

Kick Back! Long Sessions
GWM, 5'10", 160#, br/blu, cin shaven, fun, low to suck cock and balls. Sk, masc, GW/LAsian 18-45 couples OK. Rec service possible. S 4233.

Black Master Where Are You?
WM, 38, tall, slim, gldking, intelligent, submissive, seeks professional BM, hung 8" +, HIV+, mature, to teach me gentle and with respect the pleasure of being dominated. Any age, couple welcome. S 4234.

Dominant Asian Tops Wanted
Heavy set GWM, bottom looking for Asian tops. Dominant & passionate a must. Bring your friends along there is enough for everyone. S 4262.

Muscular Fuck Buddy Wanted
Very horny, muscular, hung 29yo BM, 59, 180 is looking for a safe honest, masculine, muscular, sexy guy for continuous long sessions of safe man sex. Hung a+. S 4235.

Shamane SM
Boudance master (rope) interested in Shamanism wants independent masochist and/or submissive 30-47 yo for partner-play. Be in-shape. I'm 5'9", 180#, handsome, muscular, sadist. Exp & serious only. S 4236.

Tired From The Holidays?
Stop by my place for a hot tongue buried up your butt by a hot Italian, 43, 6', 190#, facial hair, & relax & get off tonight. S 4257.

I Fall On My Knees
...you hear the angels' voices. Kick back for comprehensive oral relief from: GWM, bottomless throat, 6', 170#, goatie, 40's, big grin, big heart, fairly big brain. Nice fella too. Arrive very fully leave completely empty. S 4258.

Go Ahead, Show It Off
Play with it, get it hard, get it off near a window or in your car where you will be seen by appreciative eyes. I love to watch exhibitionistic guys. S 4259.

Marathon Party Service
Smooth lean, masculine, 33 yrs GWM, 5'9", insatiable appetite for service for GWM Dad/jock. Handsome, masculine, very well endowed man likes to kick back & party for a weekend. No recipr. S 4260.

Cover My Face With Your Cum
Mature, straight, seeking senior citizen to fulfill my New Year fantasy, watching you jerk off, see, feel your hot load on my face as I fondle your balls. S 4261.

Wanted: Big Bears
Who are tired of always being on top, from basic stuff to safe but kinky action. I'm 35, WM, 5'9", 175#, searching for bear who know what they need. S 4263.

Adventurous GWM
Goodlooking, healthy, HIV+, bottom; looking for fun, sex & a possible relationship. I'm 32, 5'9", 140#, br hair, green eyes, goatie; interested in art, politics, enjoys diversity in both intellectual & sexual pursuits. S 4264.

GLM 28
If you have a pair of sheer sex you wish to trade or sell call me. S 3939.

WS Fun
Gldking, 32 yo top w/white smooth bod seeking thirty boys, smooth bodies preferred but all considered. Also seeking other tops into all kinds of kink to share slave boys. S 3940.

If Your An 18-28 YO GWM...
And would enjoy having your clean, tickle, feel massaging. Give me a call. S 3941.

Dirty Sheer Sex Wanted GLM 29
150#, 5'11", into erotically sheer dark colored cocks & big sexy feet, wants to correspond & exchange. S 3942.

Total Raunch Pig Bottom Slave
Needs extremely sleazy, & raunch top. Wrapping my mouth around your protruding ass lips sucking all day or night. You uncult, leather, good shape. S 3943.

International Sling Slut
Pig for butthug kick strong arm power trip top fist. 12-36 hr party session, 1 on 1 or w/your top buddies round robin relay. Any stats, it's action, not vanity. My sling w/shackles or your dungeon. S 3944.

Want Ownership
Am in 50's & desire commitment to man who will take charge, control, & give orders. I'm employed, 13 years sober, seriously oral for piss & cum & total service. S 3945.

Whip Master
Hot 6', 45, muscular, 215#, Italian, goatie, into ISO adventures slaves/bottoms, for slow sessions. Your space. Limits respected. S 3946.

Manhole Wanted
Does your protrude, w/lofs of lip on it. Let my long hot tongue work it good. You: In-shape, 21-45. Me: hot, handsome, 40, 5'11", 160#. S 4053.

Pig Bottom Seeks Hung Top
Latino, 30, excellent shape, hairy, masculine looking loves to suck, be spanked, fucked, dildod, fisted & pissed on. You: masculine, aggressive, take charge attitude, hung 7" +, slim to muscular. S 4054.

Corporal Punishment Meted Out
To deserving individuals. Training to serve & suffer for the pleasure/entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training & abuse need apply. Subject should be in good shape, 18-38. No fantasy trips/first times. S 4055.

Kinky Cigar Pig Seeks Others
28 yr old cub wants to get into scenes w/other guys into cigars, pipes & other party stuff. Also likes BD, SM, WS. Versatile. SF only. Teach me. S 4056.

Cute Thirsty Boy Toy
Very handsome, 32 (looks 28), wants to be pissed on, then rolled over & butt fucked. I'm HIV- w/out Italian looks. How about sex outdoors. S 4057.

Man W/Toe Ring Sk Foot Partner
Lifetime excitement looking at fantasizing about my barefeet. Masculine, gldking E. Bay GWM, 5'7", 140#, tan, moderately hairy, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet, sage JO. Further friendship possible. S 4058.

I Have To Admit I'm A Slut
Yearning to be fucked by one or more guys; to be used & abused & video taped. GWM, 43, HIV-, slender to medium build, 175#, 6'2", 8 1/2". S 4059.

Scatbear
Late 20's, handsome, in-shape, hairy, hung, white scatbear, 5'8", seeks other handsome, in-shape, hairy, bearded, white bears for raunch, shit sex. Verbal, Father/son, BD all pluses. S 4060.

Show Off?
Slender GWM, 32, 6', 160#, seeks muscle. Are you interested in showing off? I appreciate your body. UB arrogant or shy, aggressive or passive. Call. S 4061.

Slaveboy
Your joy comes from serving your Master. You are under 35, 5'10", or under, employed, intelligent, submissive, masochistic, slim, loyal, and need guidance. S 4064.

Sneaker Sniffer! Bootlicker!!!!
Toe sucker! Mature, obedient, respectful, deep throat expert will kneel to worship & service well hung men who know what they want! S 4139.

Flex Your Muscles
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing, posing & being admired. Love baseball, biceps, hot pees. Especially seek very muscular Asian. S 4140.

Nylon/Spandex Floridian Male
Into sensuality of tight, not cross dresser, loves ballet/modern dance, outdoors, bicycling. Seeks friends to relocate. S 4141.

Pussy Boy/Bitch
WM, 28, shaved, smooth, great legs 7 ass, incredible freaky nipples ISO masculine hung fuckmaster to tease my twat. S 4142.

Coming Out Party
I'm coming out, can you handle it? SWM, 33, hot, in shape, & attractive, tired of fantasy, want to start off with a gangbang. TV's A+, HIV-. S 4143.

Oral Slave
Goodlooking GWM, 5'11", 160#, bio/bluign, 35, seeks dominant hairy men for cocksucking, rimming, WS, TT, BT, BD, leather & SM activities. S 4144.

Young Boy Toy Wanted
Attractive boyish top, 29, 5'10", 155#, 7" under looking for young bottom boy under 30 for intense ass play & fucking. Skinny, regular guys preferred. No beefy guys need to reply. S 4145.

Been Bad?
Strip & tell this 45 yo, guy how bad you've been. Then over my knee! Nothing heavy, just hot, safe fun. Smooth, boyish a+. Others & bi's welcome too. S 3947.

Medical Top Sought
By btm, I have operating room table, enema gear, restraints, cath, NG tubes, sounds, rubber & more. HIV-, NS, 5'9", 178#, clean cut, 40's very discreet. S 3948.

Manhole Wanted
Does your protrude, w/lofs of lip on it. Let my long hot tongue work it good. You: In-shape, 21-45. Me: hot, handsome, 40, 5'11", 160#. S 4053.

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Late 20's, handsome, in-shape, hairy, hung, white scatbear, 5'8", seeks other handsome, in-shape, hairy, bearded, white bears for raunch, shit sex. Verbal, Father/son, BD all pluses. S 4060.

Show Off?
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Your joy comes from serving your Master. You are under 35, 5'10", or under, employed, intelligent, submissive, masochistic, slim, loyal, and need guidance. S 4064.

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Toe sucker! Mature, obedient, respectful, deep throat expert will kneel to worship & service well hung men who know what they want! S 4139.

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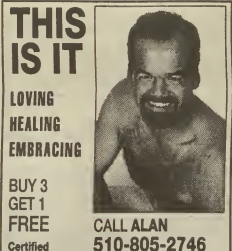
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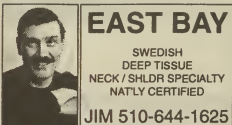
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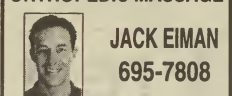


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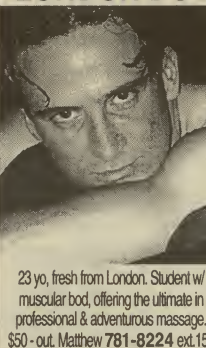
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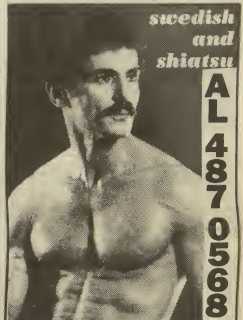


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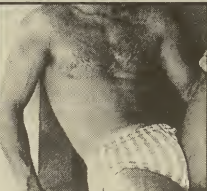
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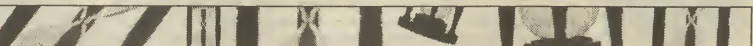
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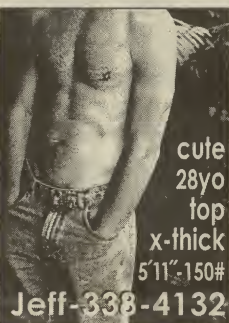
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BLUE EYES, FLAT TOP,
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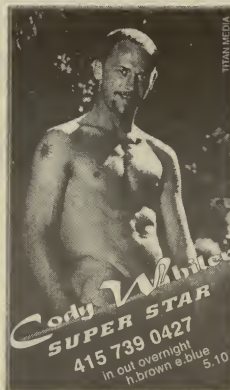
Dominant/Hot/Marine/Skinhead/Fantasies

USMC DRESSBLUES

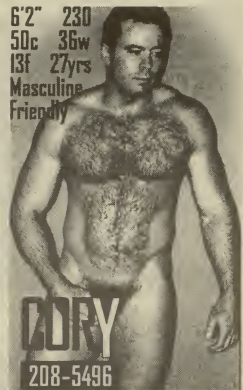
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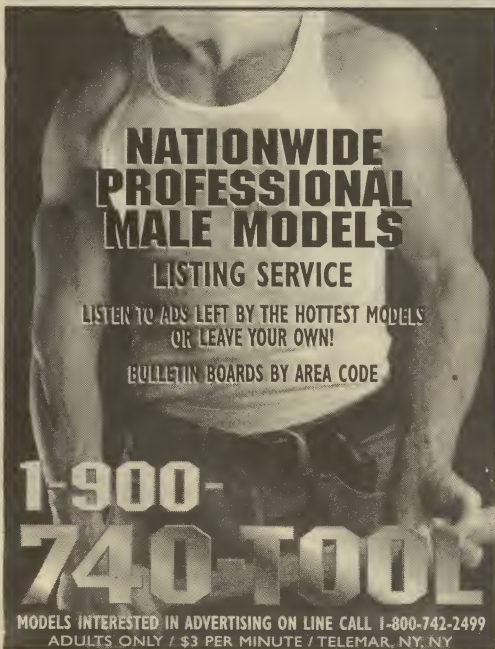
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masculine
muscular
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hairy
hung 9. **764-6280**

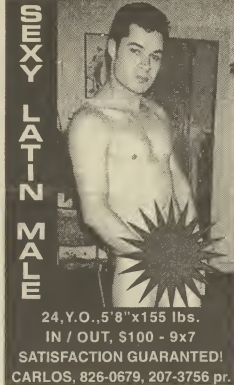
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